



**Minutes of the Meeting of Corfe Mullen Town Council held on Tuesday 7 January 2025
on the rising of the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting in the small hall of the
Village Hall**

Present: **Councillors**
P Neil (Chair)
J Bonham
A Craven
P Cuckston
L Hardy
S Jefferies
A Joyce
J Lortie
P Purvis

In Attendance: Catherine Horsley (Town Clerk & RFO)
Daryl Pearce (Deputy Town Clerk) – Minute taker

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

TC 24/305 To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A & P Holland due to personal circumstances, Cllrs Sowry-House and Florek who both had a prior commitment and Cllr Papilio who was unwell.

TC 24/306 To Record any declarations of interest Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 24/307 Paper A – To Approve minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 December 2024 – LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024.

TC 24/308 Paper B - To Consider recommendations from the Finance & Administration Committee on draft Budget and Precept for the 2025/26 financial year

The Chair noted all members had been listening to the discussions which had taken place at the previous Finance and Administration Committee relating to the recommendations for setting the Corfe Mullen Town Council 2025/26 budget and precept request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JL', is located at the bottom right of the page.

The recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee was to set the Corfe Mullen Town Council annual budget for 2025/26 financial year at £699,663.00.

Those members who were not members of the Finance & Administration Committee commented on the discussions at the previous meeting in terms of the proposed income and expenditure, acknowledging the increased costs to the Council alongside protecting valuable services for the benefit of the community and future decision making.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Finance & Administration Committee and set the Corfe Mullen Town Council annual budget for 2025/26 financial year at £699,663.00.

Members then discussed the level of precept required from Dorset Council to cover the 2025/26 budget and the effect of any increase on those who pay Council Tax, with members acknowledging increased living costs for residents, alongside the level of general reserves held.

Members discussed at length the recommendation from the Finance & Administration Committee to set the precept at £609,663.00, an increase of 8.15%, which would see a Band D property increasing from £138.64 to £149.94 per annum with £90,000 of general reserves used to reduce the deficit. Members felt the level of precept should negate the need to use a higher level of general reserves to meet the deficit, bearing in mind the forthcoming pavilion redevelopment/rebuild project.

Cllr Jefferies proposed an increase of 9.90%, which would see a Band D property increasing from £138.64 to £152.37 per annum with £80,137.41 of general reserves used to reduce the deficit. This was seconded by Cllr Lortie. Members then voted.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** setting the precept at £619,525.59, an increase of 9.90%, which would see a Band D property increasing from £138.64 to £152.37 per annum with £80,137.41 reserves to be used to reduce the deficit.

TC 24/309 Verbal – Matters for Forthcoming Agendas No decisions can be taken¹

The Clerk confirmed an update on the redesign of the Town Council Website would be provided at the next meeting.

TC 24/310 To Agree a date and time for the next meeting – Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 19:00 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen.

Members thanked Cllrs Lortie and Neil for effectively chairing the Finance & Administration Committee and Full Council meetings respectively.

TC 24/311 Close of meeting at 21:23

Signed as a correct record of the meeting.....

Date

[Signature] 28-1-25

¹ Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)