



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2026 IN THE PARISH OFFICE MEETING ROOM, MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

### **029/25 PRESENT:**

Cllrs Adam (in the Chair), Boswell, Gibson, Griffiths and Rabot were in attendance. Cllrs Tippen, Turner and the Clerk were also present.

### **030/25 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr Dobinson had given his apologies.

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Adam took the chair.

### **031/25 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Cllrs received, and approved, the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **032/25 CLLR INFORMATION**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations in interest.

#### **Granting of Dispensation**

There were no requests for dispensation.

### **033/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **034/25 AGREEMENT OF LAPTOP PURCHASE**

Cllr Newton had provided a quote for a new laptop with Windows 11 Home for planning meeting / ad hoc usage by Cllrs and employees. However, following advice from Cloudy IT this should have Windows 11 Pro. The Clerk was asked to look at other laptops with the same specification but with 11 Pro installed. If not possible the Clerk would report back to Full Council for Cllrs to make a decision on purchase the original quoted laptop and ask Cloudy IT to upgrade (at a cost of £120) or increase the budget to purchase one with 11 Pro installed.

The Clerk was also asked to view the monthly costs from Cloudy IT in view of adding the new laptop to the office system.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to obtain new quotes and view Cloudy IT invoices and report back to Full Council.

### **035/25 OTHER INCOME/EXPENDITURE**

Cllrs considered the following income and/or expenditure for:

**The remainder of 2025/26:**

The Clerk reported that the solar panel work may not be completed in this financial year. Also reported were the legal costs for the transfer of part of Rookery Path to the Parish Council. Both had been included in this year's forecasts.

**RESOLVED:** If invoices weren't received for the above work/legal fees by middle of March, and work was not planned to be completed, the Clerk would arrange to place the funds into ear marked reserves for 2026/27.

**Inclusion in 2026/27 budget**

The Clerk reported that there was still a shortfall in the 25% reserves held and Cllrs agreed to include £9,000 in the budget for this.

Items raised to be added to next financial year's budget were all for ear marked reserves expenditure for storage container at Southons Field, adding funds to the Highways Improvement Plan budget and resurfacing work of Southons Field driveway in three years' time.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to add £9,000 for the reserves shortfall and £5,535 into 2026/27 budget for the above (£2,335 for container; £1,700 for HIP and £1,500 for Southons Field driveway).

**036/25 BUDGET 2026/2027**

The budget had been viewed at the previous two meetings and following adding the above figures along with a slight increase in Christmas and interest income the budget for 2026/27 was proposed at expenditure £252,771.39 / income £25,203.38.

**RESOLVED:** The budget would be put before the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**037/25 PRECEPT 2026/2027**

Following the proposal of the budget set out above Cllrs agreed for the precept for 2026/27 to be £227,568.00. This equates to a 5% increase on 2025/26 precept (an increase for Band D properties of £8.28 per annum / £0.69p per month).

**RESOLVED:** The proposed precept for 2026/27 of £227,568.00 would be put before the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January prior to sending to Maidstone Borough Council.

**039/25 INVOICES**

The following invoices were put before Cllrs:

Cam-Tech – office alarm maintenance (Budget Code 4102) - £144.00  
 Castle Water – Changing Rooms water supply (Budget Code 4225) - £7.90  
 Castle Water – Cemetery water supply (Budget Code 4302) - £11.37  
 Castle Water – Pub. Conv. Water supply (Budget Code 4327) - £6.67  
 Kent County Council – photocopier charges (Budget Code 4065) - £83.76  
 P&F Cleaning – Pub. Conv. Cleaning (Budget Code 4326) - £725.00  
 Forvis Mazars – External Audit (Budget Code 4050) - £756.00  
 Total: £1,915.52

Cllrs agreed payments and Cllrs Adam and Rabot would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed:

Cllr Dobinson

Chairman, Finance Committee

Date:

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