

- e) An email from our Internal Auditor enclosing the Interim Internal Audit Report for the 2024-25 financial year, commending the delivery of the new Ashley Youth Hub facility, “on time and on budget in such a challenging economic environment, which is a credit to the administrative skills of the Executive Committee and the Council’s Management”.
- f) An email from SGN about a road closure for essential gas main replacement work along Bashley Common Road (from 6 January – 28 March 2025) with proposed drop-in event on Tuesday 3 December (2.30pm - 7.00pm) at St John Baptist Church, St John’s Road.

27. FEES & CHARGES 2025-26

The Town Clerk referred to Annex A (Version 2), being Fees & Charges for 2025-26 based on an inflation rate of 2.5%, with annual review of leases and licences as they arise. It was

RECOMMENDED:

That Schedule of Fees & Charges for 2025-26 be endorsed by Amenities Committee.

28. COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2025-26

The Town Clerk referred to Annex B (Version 2) including those items previously discussed.

Members went through and agreed the Amenities Committee items mentioned at Minute 18 re-instating an Ash Tree Dieback budget (4723) in the sum of c.£12k – plus the adjustments mentioned under Ashley Rugby Ground including revised rents and a General Maintenance budget (4101) under Open Spaces, and also Amenities Capex budget of £160k. It was:

RECOMMENDED:

That the Amenities Budget (v.3) for 2025-26 be endorsed by the Amenities Committee

Regarding Finance & General Purposes Committee Budget for 2025-26, a presentation by the Comms Officer detailed a revised Communications budget of £10k and an Advertising budget of £5k. Other items referred to at the end of Minute 18 of the last meeting were agreed by members. Any savings under the TDM budget would go to Ash Tree Dieback.

RECOMMENDED:

That the F&GP Budget (Version 3) for 2025-26 be endorsed by the F&GP Committee.

29. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman referred to two items that were discussed under Private Session protocols:

PRIVATE SESSION - PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS OT MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

ROBINS NEST - FERNHILL

The Clerk updated members on the current status of land for sale next to the cricket club, earmarked for formal open space in Local Plan. Execs expressed interest having previously made an offer of £350k for 4+ acres of land; that offer remains on the table. But the family wish to sell the whole plot with bungalow for circa £925k. Town Clerk was asked to arrange a fresh valuation for the whole property, and research a Public Works Board Loan (PWBL).

FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT

The Town Clerk circulated Town Council policy regarding flexible retirement arrangements.

30. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – **FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 3.00PM IN TOWN HALL**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Distribution:

Members of the Executive Committee

Town Councillors – For Information

District Councillors C V Ward, J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

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