

**Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting of the Town Council on
Monday 1st September 2025 at 6.30pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Fowles

Cllr Fotheringham

Cllr Atherton

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Pearsall

In attendance

Cllr S Sexton

Cllr R Collins (EDDC)

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk and RFO

- 25/14/FP Apologies for absence**
Committee **RECEIVED** apologies from Cllr L Wakefield.
- 25/15/FP Declarations of Interests**
Committee **RECEIVED** no declarations of interest.
- 25/16/FP Dispensations**
Committee **NOTED** no dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.
- 25/17/FP Public Question Time for items on the agenda**
None
- 25/18/FP Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 19 May 2025**
Committee **RESOLVED** to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 19 May 2025 as amended ie Youth Council to be removed from 25/10/FP.
Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Fowles
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 1.
- 25/19/FP Q1 25/26 Financial Report**
Committee raised questions about several budget lines and **NOTED** the:
(a) [2025/26 financial report](#); and
(b) reconciliation of accounts to end June 2025 – [Current](#), [Nationwide](#) & [Savings Account](#).
- 25/20/FP National Pay Award 25/26**

Committee **NOTED** the 2025/26 pay agreement for the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (often referred to as 'Green Book'/'NJC').

25/21/FP **Draft budget process and timetable for 26/27**

Committee discussed the likelihood of impact on the Town Council's budget dependent upon Devon unitary councils and its timing eg as a step change in 26/27 and practical steps 27/28. The public need to understand what the Town Council wants to have responsibility for and transfer.

Committee **RESOLVED** to Recommend to Full Council approval of the process and timetable for budget setting 2026/27.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

25/22/FP **Grants**

Committee considered and reviewed the Grant Policy and process 25/26.

1. [Summary of Grants Approved](#)
2. [Grant Policy 2025/26](#)
3. [Assessment Form](#)

Including:

- ask for accounts, not Audited Accounts;
- Application form needs revising;
- that some Grant Applications were not clear;
- questions of Applicants from Cllrs. need to be answered earlier in the process, before review by Cllrs.;
- Policy s3.15 and s3.16 must also be included in the Application form;
- late Applications will not be progressed;
- need to ask amount of funding the Applicant is providing;

and **RESOLVED** to Recommend to Full Council as amended.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

25/23/FP **Exempt Business**

Members **RESOLVED** to take the following items into exempt business.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

25/24/FP **AGAR 23/24**

Committee **NOTED** further information provided by a member of public to the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn) and the External Auditor's response to public challenge of AGAR 23/24, following its investigation.

25/25/FP

To close the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 7:40pm.