HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 19th October 2026 at 7pm

Present

St Michael's Ward
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr S Atherton

St Paul's Ward
Cllr S Craddock
Cllr S Keene
Cllr J Taylor

In attendance
Heloise Marlow, Acting Town Clerk
Cllr C Maunder
Cllr R Collins (EDDC)

26/24/FP **Apologies for absence**
Cllr S Sexton

26/25/FP **Declarations of Interests**
None

26/26/FP **Dispensations**
None

26/27/FP **Public Question Time for items on the agenda**
None

Cllr R Collins spoke to advocate that the Town Council either purchase or apply for a Community Asset transfer of land at Hayne Lane from EDDC to ensure that the land remained available for sports use. The Acting Town Clerk confirmed that the matter would be brought to Full Council in November.

26/28/FP **Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2026**
Committee RESOLVED to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2026 as published and circulated with this agenda.
Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Craddock
For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 1

26/29/FP **AGAR 25/26**
Committee **NOTED** the AGAR 25/26 External Auditor's report and certificate.

Cllr Taylor advised that he and another member of the public had written to the External Auditor and had sent a further letter, a copy of which had

been provided to the Acting Town Clerk. Cllr Taylor advised that he intended to send a further letter to the External Auditor with a query regarding the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Policy Committee.

26/30/FP **National Pay Award 26/27**

Committee **NOTED** the 2026/27 pay agreement for the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (often referred to as "Green Book/NJC").

26/31/FP **Grants**

Committee discussed the following:

- The current policy makes no allowance for Emergency grants.
- Full Council has previously agreed Emergency grants outside of the Grant policy.
- Grants Panel 2026/2027 had retained some funds to cover possible emergency grants.
- Committee had not had sufficient time to consider the recommendations paper provided by the Communications Officer and circulated earlier.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to defer the item to an extra-ordinary meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Keene

Cllr Maunder left the meeting at 8pm

26/32/FP **Budget 27/28**

Committee RESOLVED recommended partial budgets 27/28:

Code	Title	Actual 26/27, £	Current Budget 26/27, £	Proposed Budget 27/28, £	Increase + or Decrease -, £	Comments
4100	Mayor's Allowance	0	1052	1052	0	
4110	Civic Fund	0	500	1000	+500	
4120	Macebearer's Allowance	30	368	400	+32	
4130	Cllrs Expenses	0	200	500	+300	
4140	Election Expenses	0	10000	10000	0	
4150	Town Meeting Expenses	33	200	200	0	
4160	Members Allowance	0	9500	9500	0	
4170	Councillor Training	0	2000	2500	+500	

4175	Volunteer Training	0	1000	500	-500	
4180	Subscriptions	3303	3400	3500	+100	
4200	Telephone/Broadband	1614	3200	3200	0	
4210	Postage	72	200	200	0	
4220	Stationary	628	1000	1000	0	
4230	Printing/Photocopy	242	1000	1000	0	
4240	Audit	1302	2500	2500	0	
4250	Insurance	8034	6800	10000	+3200	
4255	Bank Charges	170	200	300	+100	
4260	Professional Fees	3702	3000	7500	+4500	
4270	Legal Fees	0	123,000	15,000	-108,000	£123,000 2026/27 budget to be earmarked
4290	Computer Maintenance	9196	18000	20000	+2000	
4350	Public Engagement	0	2500	2500	0	
4360	Sports Pitches	0	0	0	0	
4405	Room Hire	2775	9000	9000	0	
4410	Service Charge/Underwriting	5610	11000	11000	0	
4414	Beehive Support	0	15000	15000	+15000	
4430	Cleaning/Maintenance	2538	3000	15000	+12000	
4440	Office fittings	315	400	500	+100	
4280	Loan Interest/Capital	29537	59075	59075	0	
4620	Emergency Planning/Events	1552	1500	4000	2500	
4660	Twinning Gift	1493	1100	1100	0	
4665	Armed Forces Day	0	0	7500	+7500	
4700	Youth Support	11321	15000	15000	0	
4750	Grants	27275	27000	35000	+8000	
4760	CAB	5000	5000	5000	0	
4785	Cost of Living	7000	10000	15000	+5000	
		122,742	**346,695**	**284,527**	**-62,168**	

Cllr Fowles suggested that HTC had no budget for asset replacement or maintenance which would mean a call on reserves. He suggested that table be put together of all HTC's assets with details of life expectancy and replacement cost so that the Council can consider building up reserves.
The Acting Town Clerk confirmed that a review of the Council's asset register would be on the agenda for the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Craddock

Signed Chair **16 November 2026**

DRAFT

For 4; Against 0; Abstentions 1 (Cllr J Taylor)

26/33/FP **Budget comparison**

Committee **NOTED** the comparison of budgets with other local Councils.

26/34/FP **Budget Consultation**

Committee discussed the following:

- Having a stand at the Christmas Lights Switch on event 21.11.26
- Consultation to be a questionnaire available on-line and in paper format.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to delegate to the Communications Officer the arrangements, format, information and questions for a Council Budget Consultation November 2026 for consideration by the Finance & Policy Committee on 21st December 2026 in consultation with Cllrs Fowles, Craddock and Keene.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Keene

26/35/FP **To close the meeting.**

The meeting was closed at 21:15 pm.

DRAFT