

**Minutes of
Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday, 20 October 2025**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Hartnell

Councillors: P. Burrows, N. Dyke, K. Pike & A. Singh

In attendance: Town Clerk & Facilities Officer

Public: None

11. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllr. E. Bowman, J. Rowland & C. Wood, and the reasons accepted.

12. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hartnell declared an interest as an East Devon District Councillor and also that his son was a volunteer and was contracted on a self-employed basis by the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllr. Dyke declared an interest as a volunteer at the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllr Singh declared an interest as the Chair of Seaton Martial Arts Centre.

13. Minutes of the previous meeting

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, held on Monday, 8 September 2025.
(moved Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Pike)

14. Public Question Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

15. Payments, receipts and unpaid invoices

In line with the Council's Financial Regulations, Members reviewed and **RESOLVED** to ratify the receipts and payments made as of 30 September 2025 and to note unpaid invoices. (moved Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Pike)

16. Reconciliations

Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following reconciliations as of 30 September 2025:

- Treasurers Account – Lloyds

- Public Sector Deposit Fund – CCLA
 - Petty cash
- (moved Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Dyke)

17. Budgetary Report – Q2 2025-26

Members reviewed the Council's budgetary position and earmarked reserves as at 30 September 2025. Furthermore, a verbal update was received from officers as regards quotations for essential upgrades to surfacing in Elizabeth Road and the Underfleet playparks. Members **RESOLVED** to:

- engage the contractor, Outdoor Play UK, to carry out the work in accordance with the quotation received on 20 October 2025, to a maximum value of £40,000, which included a small contingency of £2,700 to include a contingency
- authorize the Town Clerk to make enquiries of the s106 officer at EDDC to establish whether developer contributions could be utilized to fund these essential works and, in the absence of such agreement from EDDC, to authorize the funding of these works from EMR322 (Play Parks Maintenance Fund)
- note the actual financial position, as against budget, as of 30 September 2025
- note the earmarked reserves as of 30 September 2025, subject to any adjustment that may be required depending on the outcome of the request to EDDC regarding developer contributions
- note outstanding unpaid sales invoices
- authorise the Town Clerk to make such ongoing transfers between the Public Sector Deposit Fund to the Treasurer's Account at Lloyds, as necessary, to ensure the balance in the Treasurer's Account is sufficient to cover 4 months' average expenditure.

(moved Cllr. Dyke, seconded Cllr. Burrows)

18. Draft Budget Proposal 2026/27

Members noted the general and earmarked reserves and actual income/expenditure as against budget as at the end of Q2, along with the year-end forecast. Furthermore, Members discussed at length and acknowledged the practical and financial reality of the imminent local government reorganization in Devon and likely associated devolution of assets and services to town and parish councils, sometimes at short notice. The importance of encouraging as many people as possible to engage with the community consultation that had recently been launched was reiterated, as the budgetary decisions being made for 2026-27 would need to reflect the forthcoming financial challenges, as a result of devolution, so it was important to understand the community's priorities. Members noted the initial draft and further noted that an updated draft would be brought to the committee in November reflecting, more specifically the priorities that were identified as the consultation progressed.

Meeting closed at 6.40pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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