

STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.15pm in The Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr P Batstone
Cllr N Dobson - Chair
Cllr A Donaldson

Cllr M Jones
Cllr D Mantock
Cllr J Rose – Vice Chair

In Attendance: Jasmine Drew (Admin Officer), Adam Dodson (Grounds Manager)
Members of the Public: 0

- | Minute No. | Comments |
|------------|--|
| 24/25/195 | PUBLIC SESSION
There were no members of the public present. |
| 24/25/196 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Lacey.
The apology was accepted by the members present. |
| 24/25/197 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
There were no interests declared and no written requests for dispensation had been received. |
| 24/25/198 | MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the previous Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 25th July 2024 and 15th August 2024, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as read and approved for signature by the Committee Chair as a true and correct record. |
| 24/25/199 | FINANCIAL MATTERS
i. To approve any payments for invoices over £2000.
The payment to Redlynch for the Ricketts Lane play equipment was approved.
ii. Income and Expenditure Report as at 30th September 2024.
The Committee resolved to approve the income and expenditure report as at 30 th September 2024.
iii. Approve Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2024
The Committee resolved to approve the balance sheet as at 30 th September 2024. |
| 24/25/200 | REPORT ON PAYMENTS MADE UNDER DELEGATION BETWEEN 1st July – 30th September 2024
Payments made under delegation between 1 st July – 30 th September 2024 had been checked by Cllrs Donaldson and Mantock and were approved by the Committee.

It has not been possible to complete these checks, therefore to be deferred to the Town Council meeting on 19 December 2024. |
| 24/25/201 | FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR 2024/25
These were reviewed and adopted by the Committee. |
| 24/25/202 | FIRST DRAFT OF BUDGET 2025/26
The first draft of the 2025/26 budget was presented with only a minimal increase in overall spending.
Current Staffing changes have been considered within the budget. |



Considerations for future budgeting are the repainting of the railings at the Bridge, and the requirement to complete a Neighbourhood Plan in the next 5 years.

24/25/203

RECRUITMENT OF GROUNDS OPERATIVE

The Committee approved the recruitment of a full time Grounds Operative to fill the current vacancy.

24/25/204

INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Update from Adam Dodson (Grounds Manager)

The repair to the Town Clock has been postponed until January 2025 as scaffolding is needed.

The Landlords of the unit at Richmar Trading Estate are happy for the Town Council to apply for Change of Use for the period of the lease. Any partitions erected will need to be removed at the end of the lease. The Council are liable to 50% of the Solicitors fees for the preparation of the lease.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.59pm

Approved on Chairman's Signature

DRAFT

