# STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 26 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**PRESENT:**
Cllr P Batstone
Cllr L Cooper
Cllr A Donaldson
Cllr H Lacey – Chair
Cllr J Rose
Cllr S Trim – Vice Chair

**IN ATTENDANCE:**
K Squire (Town Clerk)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**: 1

**MINUTE NO** **COMMENTS**

**26/27/098** **To receive comments and questions from members of the public**
No comments or questions were received.

**26/27/099** **Apologies for absence**
All members of the committee were present.

**26/27/100** **To approve declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation**
Cllr Trim declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 26/27/106 as Treasurer of the Sturminster Newton Community Benefit Society

**26/27/101** **To approve the minutes of the previous Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 15 April 26**
The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 15 April 26, having been circulated and published prior to the meeting, were taken as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

**26/27/102** **Financial Matters:**

1. **To approve any payments over £2000**

There were no payments over £2000 to approve.

2. **To approve the income and expenditure report as at 30 June 26**

The Committee resolved to recommend approval of the income & expenditure report as at 30 June 26 to Full Council.

3. **To approve the balance sheet as at 30 June 26**

The Committee resolved to recommend approval of the balance sheet as at 30 June 26 to Full Council.
(The Committee agreed to rename this regular item in future bank reconciliation report).



Chairs Initials .....

4. **To review and approve adjustments to ear marked reserves for 26/27**
The Committee reviewed the reserves report previously circulated and resolved to recommend to Full Council, approval of the reserves report taking into consideration changes made following finalisation of the accounts for 25/26.

**26/27/103 To approve payments made under delegation between 01 April 26 – 30 June 26 and confirm a sample of payments made between these dates had been checked by Cllrs Lacey and Trim**
The Committee resolved to approve payments made under delegation between 01 April 26 – 30 June 26 and confirmed a sample of payments made between these dates had been checked.

**26/27/104 To approve the following policies:**
- Training

The Committee reviewed and resolved to approve the training policy previously circulated with the meeting papers.
- Grants

The Committee reviewed and resolved to approve the training policy previously circulated with the meeting papers.
- Co-Option

The Committee reviewed and resolved to approve the co-option policy previously circulated with the meeting papers.

**26/27/105 To consider a request from the Newton Residents Association to act as guarantors for the ongoing costs associated with a proposed additional defibrillator at Newton**
Cllr Batstone declared an interest in this agenda item as a member of the Newton Residents Association and did not participate in the vote.
The Committee resolved to agree to act as guarantors for the ongoing costs associated with a proposed additional defibrillator at Newton.

**26/27/106 To consider the following grant requests:**
- **Sturminster Newton Football Club – Clubhouse Tables/Chairs**

The Committee requested more information.
- **Stur Action – Contribution to Christmas Tree Lights**

The Committee requested more information on the terms and length of the current contract and a breakdown of costs and sponsorship.
- **Wessex Life Education Van**

The Committee requested that an application be submitted from William Barnes Primary School.



Chairs Initials .....

**26/27/107 To receive an update regarding the Sturminster Newton Literary Festival grant received for cancelled event and consider further actions**

The Clerk advised that in accordance with Town Council policy, office staff had made enquiries regarding the grant funding awarded to the Sturminster Newton Literary Festival for a cancelled event. A Literary Festival representative advised that the event was being rescheduled for July 26.

The Committee resolved that if the event had not taken place by the end of 2026, the grant should be returned in accordance with Town Council policy.

**26/27/108 To consider renewing subscription to the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils(DAPTC) £1412.74 (including NALC membership at £291.28)**

The Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council that the subscription to DAPTC is not renewed. NALC membership to be subscribed to separately.

**26/27/109 To consider renewing and upgrading WatchGuard cybersecurity as an additional monthly subscription for internet security:**

**1 year £45 per month**
**2 years £40 per month**
**3 years £35 per month**

The Committee decided to defer this item to Full Council in August to give time for the Clerk to find out more information.

**26/27/110 To consider applying for a Dorset Council grant in collaboration with the Community Buildings Trust for solar panels**

The Committee resolved to proceed in applying for a grant in collaboration with the Community Buildings Trust for solar panels.

**26/27/111 To receive information from members and proposals for future business**

Members had no information or proposals relevant to the Committee.

**Confidential Items**

**26/27/112 To receive an update from Cllr Lacey as chair of the staffing committee**

Cllr Lacey gave an update regarding staff matters agreed within the staffing committee's terms of reference, including:

- Occupational health and grievance matters
- Staff handbook update
- Staff changes
- Continuity plan update



Chairs Initials .....

**26/27/113 To receive an update from Cllr Rose regarding outcomes from a grievance raised by the Clerk**

Cllr Rose gave an update on the outcomes from a grievance raised by the Clerk including:

- Strengthening governance and workload planning
- Improving councillor understanding of roles, boundaries, conduct and employer responsibilities (including staff wellbeing)
- Updating HR and governance policies in line with good practice

**The Chair closed the meeting at 20.51**

**Chairs Signature..... Date Approved .....**



Chairs Initials .....