



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes from the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of Minehead Town Council
held on

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30 pm at
The Town Council Offices, 3 Summerland Road, Minehead, TA24 5BP

Present: Councillors Hodson (Chair), C Palmer, Lawton, Jewell, Hall, M Palmer, Bartlett, Sharjeel, Kravis and Beynon

Not Present: Councillors Bonar and Milton

In Attendance: B Parker (Town Clerk), J Chapman (Deputy Clerk & RFO)

There was a 15-minute open forum at the beginning of the Meeting for residents of Minehead to speak on any matter related to the agenda. No matters were raised.

2026/01. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2026/02. To receive disclosures of unregistered or other interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the Meeting.

Councillor Kravis has a standing declaration as a Somerset Councillor.

There were no further disclosures of unregistered or other interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the Meeting.

2026/03. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the [Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on Tuesday 11th November 2025](#).

RESOLVED the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 were approved and signed by the committee chair as a true and accurate record.

2026/04. Accounts

- i. To approve the following payments over £500.
 - Payment of **£726.00 inc. VAT** to Exmoor Skip Hire for skip exchanges at Marshfield Road Compound.
 - Payment of **£1,402.27 inc. VAT** to Eagle Plant for the purchase of 2 x Hedge Trimmers for Amenities Team. (*Delegated authority to purchase machinery given to the clerk in June 2025's Full Council Meeting, Minute Number 2025/110*)

RESOLVED the payments of £726.00 inc. VAT and £1,402.27 inc. VAT were approved.

- ii. To recommend for approval the following payments over £1,500.

- Payment of **£2,000** to eat:Festivals for the delivery of two festivals in Minehead through 2026. (*Two annual festivals agreed in June 2025's Full Council Meeting, Minute Number 2025/109*)

RESOLVED the payment of £2,000 was recommended for approval.

- iii. To receive payments made for December.

The payments made for December were **received**.

- iv. To receive budget, income & expenditure reports for December.

The budget, income & expenditure reports for December were **received**.

- v. To receive Income receipts for December.

The Income receipts for December were **received**.

- vi. To receive bank reconciliations for December.

The bank reconciliations for December were **received**.

2026/05. 2026/27 Budget

- i. To review and make any necessary amendments to the draft budget, including Earmarked Reserves, for the 2026/27 financial year.

A draft budget for 2026/27 was presented, prepared using known costs and best estimates for forthcoming committed expenditure. The draft also reflected previous Council discussions regarding priorities and planned projects.

Members noted that while the budget must accurately reflect anticipated outgoings, several external pressures must be taken into account, including Somerset Council's financial position, the ongoing costs arising from the recent devolution of parks and open spaces and both public expectations and the domestic financial pressures faced by residents. The draft budget proposed an approximate £10 annual increase for an average Band D household. A final budget is required to be approved at the next Full Council meeting, with the precept request submitted to Somerset Council by the end of January.

Copies of the draft budget, earmarked reserves schedule, and supporting notes had been circulated with the agenda. Councillors were invited to raise concerns, identify items for removal, or propose additional items for inclusion.

Councillors discussed the financial implications of devolution and the wider context of Somerset Council's current financial challenges. Members agreed that the Town Council must maintain resilience while continuing to deliver its core functions.

The Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) provision was reviewed. Councillors agreed that, although the reserve totals broadly reflect current Council direction, a more detailed review of project

requirements is needed to ensure the EMRs continue to align with the Council's strategic objectives. This work will be undertaken throughout 2026.

Several budget areas were discussed, including the importance of tourism and the contribution that clean, safe, and well-presented open spaces make to the town's overall impression. Key locations highlighted included the Seafront, Town Centre, Blenheim Gardens, and The Parks. Members agreed that these sites require immediate improvement works during the next financial year, alongside longer-term strategic planning and the gradual building of reserves to support future enhancements.

Following recommendations from the Staffing Subcommittee, the draft budget for 2026/27 includes provision for additional administrative support and a dedicated Amenities Service Manager. A business case for these posts will be presented to Full Council in due course.

- ii. To consider and recommend the final draft budget for the 2026/27 financial year to Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED to recommend approval of a total budget of £1,254,249, less budgeted income of £161,738, resulting in a precept requirement of £1,092,511. If approved, this would set a Band D Minehead Town Council tax rate of £238.41, representing an annual increase of £9.94.

The meeting closed at 21:07.

Councillor Bill Hodson
Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
January 2026