



**Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of Minehead Town Council
held on
Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7:30 p.m. in the Minehead Community Centre, Irnham Road,
Minehead TA24 5DW.**

Present: Councillors Jewell (Committee Chair), Bartlett, C Palmer, Basketfield, Hodson, Jeffery Kravis, Maycock, Milton, M Palmer and Sharjeel.

Apologies: Councillor Beynon, Bonar, Hall and Lawton.

In attendance: B Parker (Town Clerk) J Chapman (Deputy Clerk & RFO) and Somerset Councillor Chilcott

2026/31. To receive Apologies for Absence [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)

Councillor Beynon, Bonar, Hall and Lawton's apologies for absence were received.

2026/32. To receive disclosures of unregistered or other interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting [Localism Act 2011 S 26 - 34](#)

Councillor Kravis has a standing declaration as a Somerset Councillor and declared a business interest on Agenda Item 5 (*Minute Number 2026/35*). Stayed in room, spoke, did not vote.

There were no further disclosures of unregistered or other interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting

2026/33. To approve and sign the [Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2026.](#)

RESOLVED the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2026.

2026/34. Accounts

i. To receive payments made for September.

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

ii. To receive budget, income & expenditure reports for September.

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

iii. To receive income receipts for September.

The income receipts for September were **received**.

iv. To receive bank reconciliations for September.

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

2026/35. To receive an update on Somerset Council's proposed review of parking charges in Minehead, including the representations already submitted by the Town Clerk to Somerset Council's Executive, and to consider any further action or response by the Town Council.

The Clerk provided an update on correspondence sent to Somerset Council's Executive Committee regarding the proposed parking charge review. A draft letter had previously been circulated to Councillors by email and approved for submission by a majority of Councillors (8). The letter raised concerns regarding the level of engagement with local councils and the scale of the proposed parking charge increases for Minehead. A copy of the letter was also published on the Town Council's website together with a brief press statement.

The Clerk further advised that parking charges for the Town Council-owned car parks at Alexandra Road and North Road remain matters for Minehead Town Council and would be considered under a later agenda item.

The update was **noted**.

Councillors expressed disappointment with the proposed county-wide parking charge structure, observing that a standardised approach may not fully reflect the differing needs and circumstances of individual communities. During discussion, Members considered whether there may be merit in exploring the potential acquisition of Somerset Council-owned car parks within Minehead should opportunities arise in the future. It was recognised that any such consideration would require a thorough understanding of the financial, operational and legal implications, including asset values, income generation, maintenance liabilities and potential borrowing requirements. Members agreed that further information would be required before any view could be formed.

RESOLVED by majority with three abstentions and two against, that the Clerk be requested to undertake preliminary research into the potential acquisition of Somerset Council-owned car parks within Minehead and to report back to Council with further information to assist any future consideration of the matter.

2026/36. To commence the review of Minehead Town Council's fees and charges for the 2027/28 financial year.

As part of the 2027/28 budget-setting process, Councillors had previously requested that a comprehensive review of the Town Council's fees and charges be undertaken prior to budget deliberations. The Clerk presented the current schedule of fees and charges and highlighted a number of observations arising from discussions with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), together with feedback received through meetings and ongoing engagement.

It was noted that a number of fees and charges had not been subject to a detailed review for some time and, in certain areas, may no longer fully reflect the cost of providing the associated service.

Councillors discussed a range of potential options and approaches to fees and charges. It was agreed that further consideration was required before any recommendations could be made as part of the budget-setting process.

RESOLVED to hold an informal Councillor session on Tuesday 3rd November 2026, immediately following the Planning Committee meeting, to consider the Council's fees and charges in greater detail and to inform future recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The meeting closed at 20:42

Councillor Ben Jewell
Chair of The Finance and General Purposed Committee
September 2026