



FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 21st October 2025.

819 PRESENT: Cllr Biggs (Chairman), Cllr Benton, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Gunning, and Cllr Turner; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk) and two members of the public.

820 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton, Cllr Tuff and Cllr Woods.

821 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH AUGUST 2025

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th August 2025 having been circulated were confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

822 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATION

Cllr Biggs declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 (b) – St Marys Academy PTFA grant application.

Cllr Dawkins declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 (c), (d) and (e) – Beaminster Preschool grant applications.

823 PAYMENTS & RECIEPTS

Members were tabled with details of the payments for the month of October 2025 including cheque numbers 106228 to 106242, direct debits, credit card payments and bank payments totalling £29,008.83 together with receipts received in the sum of £174,600.52 a copy of which are attached. Members **RESOLVED** adoption and payment as presented.

824 BUDGET MONITORING

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the actual year to date figures at 30th September which represented the first half year transactions. **NOTED.**

No significant questions or comments were raised.

Cllrs Biggs and Dawkins left the meeting.

825 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members having previously been circulated with copies of the grant applications considered each in turn.

(a) Home-Start Blackmore Vale

The application submitted sought a grant to recruit and train volunteers to support local families. Members considered this a difficult application to monitor as to the overall benefit to the community therefore no grant was awarded.

(b) St. Marys Academy PTFA

The application submitted sought a grant to provide additional outdoor sports/play equipment to assist with outdoor activities; also musical instruments to encourage pupils to explore and enjoy music. A grant of £1,000 was **AGREED**.

(c) Beaminster Pre-school

The application submitted sought a grant towards the cost of hiring premises for fund raising event. Although grants were not given to assist with running costs it was **NOTED** the fundraising event was held to raise funds to purchase new bikes. A grant of £100 was **AGREED** towards the purchase of bikes.

(d) Beaminster Pre-school

The application submitted sought a grant towards the cost to purchase 3 x Apple IPAD's for pupils to build a foundation of digital skills and a means by which staff can maintain engagement with parents and wider community. A grant of £850 was **AGREED**.

(e) Beaminster Pre-school

The application submitted sought a grant towards the cost of a replacement storage shed, unfortunately this was a retrospective application and was not considered.

Cllrs Biggs and Dawkins returned to the meeting.

826 COMMUNITY LARDER

The Beaminster Community Larder began as a FareShare supported pop-up at St Mary's School facilitated by Charity Help and Kindness. It consistently serviced around 35 individuals or families with affordable top-up groceries.

Fareshare announced that all larders will transition to local management, Beaminster Community Larder is preparing to become independently run in partnership with Beaminster Community Fridge with full administrative responsibilities held by the local team.

To facilitate this independence members were asked to support the scheme and approve the financial merger of the Community Larder and Community Fridge into the existing Town Council Community Fridge bank account. **RESOLVED** to financially merge the two initiatives together.

827 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting **NOTED** as Tuesday 16th December 2025.

828 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) ACT 1960

Members **RESOLVED** that public and press be now excluded from the meeting whilst discussion took place on the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of quotations received.

(a) Pavilion refurbishment

The Town Clerk advised that not all the anticipated quotations had been received and requested a deferment until the November Council meeting. **AGREED**.

(b) Cemetery Wall

The Town Clerk advised that section of the cemetery boundary wall had been damaged. A budget estimate had been obtained to repair the damage, due to the sums involved I was **AGREED** to obtain a comparison estimate.

829 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 7.40pm

Chairman
16th December 2025

