**FINANCE, RESOURCES & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON 9TH JUNE 2025 AT 7.00PM**

**Present:**

Cllr A Allen Cllr G Kennedy

Cllr S Brooke Cllr S Oldrieve

Cllr C Burton

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie – Assistant Town Clerk (Remote attendance)

A member of the Neighbourhood Watch Association

*The meeting was opened by Cllr Brooke.*

**FR&GP.25/40 Election of Chairperson of the Finance, Resources and General Purposes Committee for 2025/26:**

Cllr Oldrieve nominated Cllr Burton. Cllr Burton duly accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

 **Resolved:** As there were no other nominations, Cllr Burton was duly elected to serve as Chairperson of the Finance, Resources & General Purposes Committee for 2025/26.

 *Cllr Burton chaired the remainder of the meeting.*

**FR&GP.25/41 Election of Vice-Chairperson of the Finance, Resources and General Purposes Committee for 2025/26:**

Cllr Oldrieve nominated Cllr Kennedy. Cllr Burton nominated Cllr Fletcher. Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Fletcher duly accepted the nominations. The nomination for Cllr Fletcher was seconded by Cllr Brooke. The nomination for Cllr Kennedy did not receive a seconder.

**Resolved:** As there were no other nominations, Cllr Fletcher was duly elected to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Finance, Resources & General Purposes Committee for 2025/26.

**FR&GP.25/42 Apologies for absence:**

Cllr D Fletcher – Personal commitment.

**FR&GP.25/43 Declarations of Interest:**

None.

**\*\*Public Participation:**

 None.

**FR&GP.25/44 Minutes**:

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2025 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were confirmed as a correct record and were approved.

ii) The following updates were provided:

* FR&GP.25/03 Electronic devices have now been circulated and a further follow-up session will be offered to resolve any remaining operational issues.
* FR&GP.25/22 A replacement Grounds Maintenance Vehicle has now been sourced by Cllr Evans and purchased and is in use by the grounds maintenance staff.
* FR&GP.25/28 Members were advised that the issues raised with the newly installed town fingerpost signage is currently in the process of being rectified.

**FR&GP.25/45 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergencies:**

Membersnoted the Council Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

**FR&GP.25/46 Accounts & Financial Statement**:

Members received and approved:

i) Payment and receipt transactions between 1st April 2025 and 21st May 2025 *(*\*copy previously circulated*).*

ii) Bank reconciliation between 1st April 2025 and 21st May 2025 *(\**copy previously circulated*).*

iii) noted the balances and borrowing as below:

 General Account: £ 33,999.04 (as at 21.05.25)

 Income/Precept A/C: £ 202,219.50 (as at 21.05.25)

 Capital A/C: £ 32,872.41 (as at 21.05.25)

 CIL A/C: £ 115,940.73 (as at 21.05.25)

 National Lottery Grant: £ 36,444.16 (as at 21.05.25)

 Redwood Bank (Rev) £ 85,000.00 (as at 21.05.25)

 Charity Bank Invest (Rev) £ 85,000.00 (as at 21.05.25)

 Cambridge & Counties (CiL) £ 130,000.00 (as at 21.05.25)

 Nationwide Build Soc (CiL) £ 130,000.00 (as at 21.05.25)

 B’hamshire Build Soc (Cap) £ 110,000.00 (as at 21.05.25)

 Hampshire Trust Bank (CiL) £ 130,000.00 (as at 21.05.25)

 Borrowing

 Public Sector Works Loan £ - 366,748.04 (as at 31.03.25)

**FR&GP.25/47 Policy Review(s):**

Membersconsideredmaking a recommendation to Full Council to re-adopt the following policy, following review:

 - Treasury & Investment Policy (*\*copy previously circulated*)

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to recommend to Full Council that the Treasury & Investment Policy is readopted.

**FR&GP.25/48 Deferred Item FR&GP.25/36 Grant Request(s):**

 Members considered a deferred application for CiL grant funding:

1. £25,000 – Bovey Tracey Swimming Pool Trust (*\*copy previously circulated*)

**Resolved:** Following a lengthy discussion and collective scoring of the application in line with the Council’s Capital Programme, it was resolved to award CiL Grant Funding of £25,000 to Bovey Tracey Swimming Pool Trust.

**FR&GP.25/49 Capital Programme:**

i) Members considered approving the template/process for reviewing and scoring Capital Projects (*\*copy previously circulated*).

ii) Members undertook a collective scoring review of the current Capital Programme (*\*copy previously circulated*). Cllr Brooke advised members that consideration of the Capital Expenditure Programme should also include key projects such as: Town Centre CCTV upgrades, purchase of land for cemetery/green burials and land for a pump track.

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to:

1. Approve the scoring template as circulated, with the removal of Column H (Statutory Service of the Town Council or wider third-party responsibility).
2. Defer the final scoring of the current Capital Programme until the committee meet on 1st September 2025. In the meantime, FR&GP Committee members will meet informally to finish the programme scoring to formally present for approval at the next meeting.

**FR&GP.25/50 Internal Audit Report – Year End 31st March 2025:**

 Membersconsideredthe recommendation(s) and subsequent observations and actions highlighted within the year end audit report *(\*copy previously circulated).*

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members approved the recommendations and noted that observations O1 and O2 would be tabled for consideration at the FR&GP meeting scheduled for 1st September 2025.

**FR&GP.25/51 Direct Debits and Standing Orders:**

Members received and considered approvingalist of Direct Debit/Standing Order payments *(\*copy previously circulated).*

**Resolved:** Members approved the list of Direct Debit/Standing Order payments without further amendment.

**FR&GP.25/52** **Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Annual Report 2024/25:**

i) Members received and noted the content of the CiL Annual Financial Report 2024/25 *(\*copy previously circulated).*

ii) Members considered approving the publication of the report in accordance with regulation 62A of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Regulations 2010 (as amended).

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members noted the content of the report and resolved to approve the publication of the report in accordance with the regulation 62A of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Regulations 2010 (as amended).

**FR&GP.25/53 Public Toilets – Contract Cleaning:**

 Members considered the following:

1. Renewing the appointment of the current Contractor for unlocking, locking and cleaning the public toilets for a further 12-months.
2. Approving the proposed contract cleaning cost increases:

2024/252025/26

 Station Road Public Toilets £773.38pm plus vat £827.51pm plus vat

 Recreation Ground Public Toilets £297.58pm plus vat £318.41pm plus vat

 **Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to:

1. Renew the appointment of the current Contractor for unlocking, locking and cleaning the public toilets for a further 12-months.
2. Approve the proposed contract cleaning cost increases as follows:

2025/26

Station Road Public Toilets £827.51pm plus vat

Recreation Ground Public Toilets £318.41pm plus vat

1. Request that the Town Clerk brings an item forward on the next agenda with information available on all revenue costs associated with Station Road toilets, in addition to the Cleaning Contract Specification and usage figures.

**FR&GP.25/54 Matters brought forward by Councillors:**

**Cllr Burton** highlighted staff resources and a requirement to further look at staffing as the Town Council has grown and continues to grow, and in consideration of the workload, look at this subject in advance of the budget setting process for 2026.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.