

**Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm to be held in Bruton Community Hall.**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs Anderton (Chair), Buckland, Coulter, Fradley, Hood, and Jones.

**In the Chair:** Cllr Anderton.

**Officers present:** Assistant Town Clerk.

**Public session Not required**

**Meeting started at: 7:30pm**

**Minutes**

**FR25/26: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

To receive and approve any apologies of absence and to approve the reasons given.

Received from Cllrs Robinson and Wright.

**It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] [for-against-abstain] that the apologies submitted were received and approved.**

**FR25/27: Declarations of interest.**

Declarations of Interests Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests, they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any written requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (This does not preclude any later declaration).

None declared.

**FR25/28: [Minutes of the last meeting](#) held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).**

To agree the minutes from the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to receive, approve and sign the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

Cllr Anderton signed the minutes.

**FR25/29: Clerk's Report.**

To receive a short oral report from the clerk, [a summary](#) of which can be found on the town council website.

Noted by all.

**FR25/30: Funding larger projects within parish boundary.**

To discuss other ways to fund projects such as BruBowl, and upgrading of Jubilee Park Play area, and consider any next steps.

Cllr Robinson (absent) proposes that BTC explores the possibilities of a loan. Cllr Jones supports the BruBowl project, and believes the way to proceed is to back local funding. A considerable donation has recently been received, which could unlock further potential donations.

There are other potential future projects such as the possibility of purchasing the Dovecot building, and a full play area upgrade, which would make it worthwhile to explore options.

This would incur extra officer time, much consultation will be required for the council to take out a loan, as this is a complex process.

Proposed to investigate the options and framework for a loan for a suggested project, such as the Jubilee Park Play area upgrade, or the pathway through County Fields. **To be added to the Strategic Planning meeting for discussion next week.**

**FR25/31: Budget, 2026-2027.**

To continue the budget process for the 2026-2027 budget. To consider making a budget provision for a Town Ranger (or similar). To consider the updated budget after the observations and suggestions made in the Finance and Resources meeting in September.

The budget and papers were reviewed and noted by all, and the following recommendations were made:

1. Remove £2000 from Enhanced Highways Scheme, as it seems Kier have pulled out of this contract.

2. Remove £3000 from Events, to replace with the cost of road closure and encourage/invite Chamber Of Commerce to apply for a grant (now) for next Christmas.
3. Cllr Jones proposed to increase the potential grants fund as this was low last year, suggested £18000
4. Gully clearance funds can be transferred into General reserves
5. Legal Fees – suggested to include a separate provision for the total cost (calculate an estimate) for the County Fields project.
6. Topping up the County Fields reserve by an additional £6000.
7. Increase to the tree maintenance budget – take up to £5000 in view of the expenditure this year.
8. Cllr Fradley requests the remaining £500 for playground equipment is spent for the new swing seats as they desperately need replacing. Agreed by all for officers to go ahead with this spend.
9. Add Picnic Benches budget line of £2500
10. Grounds maintenance contract tbc, once tender process has finalised.
11. Bus shelters should not be added until further discussion at the Town Council Budget meeting.

To be brought back to next meeting with the above amendments, along with Ear-marked reserves for a further review before recommendation.

**FR25/32: Town Meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

To consider the format of the Town Meeting, how and what to present to residents and members of the public who may attend the meeting.

The following suggestions were agreed:

1. Cllr Anderton will chair, with a simplified presentation (of tonight's budget)
2. Explain what has been spent and where, a slideshow presentation with photographs for visual effect and the cost displayed across the photos, what has been achieved and spent/What we do- including TC responsibilities current costs, all as a slideshow.
3. Questions for feedback on the following; County Fields/Town Ranger/Bus Shelters/should money be saved or spent?
4. Invitation process – more publicity to encourage greater take-up. Should start on social media now with an “event” which will give an idea of interest/attendance, and Noticeboards.
5. Invitation for public to comment on social media as to what questions they might like to ask.
6. Advertise that this is a trial event and if successful with interest and take-up

**FR25/33: Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7.30pm, in Bruton Community Hall.

Noted by all.

Agenda items to the clerk by 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 please.

**The meeting ended at: 8.22pm.**

**END OF MINUTES**