



Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors S Dean (Chairman), Z Gover (Vice Chairman), D Budd, K Critchley, B Dean, V Green, L Kirk, M Tighe and S Wheatley.

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, S Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk

PRF 013/26-27 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Holloway.

PRF 014/26-27 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PRF 015/26-27 Public participation time

There were no members of the public present.

PRF 016/26-27 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, held on 19 May 2026, were **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Chair following the meeting.

PRF 017/26-27 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

PRF 018/26-27 Payment of outstanding creditors

The Committee noted its frustration at the charge levied by Dorset Council on Wareham Town Council for the issuing of a Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 s 62 notice to disperse Gypsies and Travellers following the recent incursion at Hauses Field.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £57,343.44 be approved.

PRF 019/26-27 Grant Policy and Procedure

The Committee noted that Council Christmas Civic Events are not always held each year and the prudence of including "or in the December meeting of Full Council" under "Grant Application Process 4." and "Conditions of Funding 20."

It was **RESOLVED** that the Grant Policy and Procedure for the 2026/27 financial year be approved, subject to the inclusion of the above-stated clause in the noted sections.

PRF 020/26-27 Bank Reconciliations

The Committee considered the bank reconciliations for the months of April, May and June 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliations for the months of April, May and June 2026 be approved.

PRF 021/26-27 Recreation Ground and Sports Fees

The Committee discussed the progress of the former middle school field site's asset transfer to the Town Council. The Town Clerk noted that, while she had been liaising with the Head of Dorset Council's legal services in relation to progressing the transfer, progress in this regard was still slow and subsequent responses had not been forthcoming from Dorset Council, but she would continue to press the issue

and would relay the Council's disappointment at the number of children being let down by Dorset Council as a result.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recreation ground and sports fees proposals for the 2027/28 year be approved with the football fees being applicable for the commencement of the next football season.

PRF 022/26-27 Remembrance Sunday Road Closures

The Committee considered the budgetary implications of the of the "Council – Civic Events" budget line supporting other civic events such as Mayor-Making and no longer containing sufficient funds to facilitate the Remembrance Sunday Road Closures and traffic management and the prudence of revising the amount budgeted to cover these activities during the Committee's next budget setting period.

It was **RESOLVED** that Core Highways Group Ltd be appointed at a cost of £2,739.96 (excluding VAT) being drawn from the "Council – Civic Events" with any remaining funds from "Council – General Events" budget line.

PRF 023/26-27 2 North Street Bid Expenditure

The Town Clerk explained the reason and need for the expenditure which was required for the development of the National Heritage Lottery Fund bid. It did not mean that the resulting report by the contractor would be the definitive layout of the museum but would provide detailed costing for the purposes of the bid only.

It was **RESOLVED** that Smith & Jones Design Consultants Ltd be appointed to provide concept design and visual development work, including costings for the potential museum layout, and the expenditure of £5,000 (excluding VAT).

PRF 024/26-27 Earmarked Reserve Allocation

The Town Clerk noted the need to provide the allocation of an earmarked reserve for subsequent expenditure in relation to the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid preparations, as this was currently unbudgeted. The proposed £100,000 reserve would be met from the remaining PWLB loan monies, which was what it should be allocated for.

The Committee noted that the actual expected expenditure for these preparations was projected comfortably within the proposed £100,000 figure and that any remaining money in the earmarked reserve could be returned to the general fund following the completion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid preparation.

It was **RESOLVED** that an earmarked reserve of £100,000 be established for the purpose of meeting required up-front costs in relation to the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid preparations, with any unspent monies in this earmarked reserve to be returned to the general fund at year end.

PRF 025/26-27 Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

There were no other items deemed urgent.

PRF 026/26-27 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 8 September 2026**.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Initials.....

S:MEETINGS/PolicyResourcesFinance/CommitteeDocs/Minutes/2026