Gainsborough Town Council

Richmond House, Richmond Park, Morton Terrace
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FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on **Tuesday 25 November 2025** at **6:30pm** in the meeting room, Richmond House, Richmond Park, Morton Terrace, Gainsborough, DN21 2RJ.

Councillors Present: Councillor Nigel Bowler (Chair)

Councillor Sheila Bibb
Councillor Stephen Blogg
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Richard Thompson (sub)

In Attendance:

Rachel Allbones	Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Sean Alcock	Operations Manager

FS26/094 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors N Coxon, P Hooton, P Key, D Owles, J Plastow.

FS26/095 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

FS26/096 Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

FS26/097 Items for Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: to exclude the public and press from items FS26/103, FS26/104 in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 1 (2) due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

FS26/098 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Paper A)

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28 October 2025 be approved as a as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Note: Councillors Bibb and Dobbie abstained from voting on the above resolution.

FS26/099 Finance Reports (Papers B, C & D)

RESOLVED: to **NOTE** and approve the following reports:

i. Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 20 November 2025.
ii. Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 20 November 2025.
iii. Budget Comparison Report (including due and unpaid transactions) for 20 November 2025.

FS26/100 Bank Reconciliation (Paper E)

RESOLVED: to approve and sign the monthly bank reconciliations for 31 October 2025.

FS26/101 Draft 2026 / 2027 Budget & Estimate (Paper F)

Members thoroughly reviewed the draft budget.

RESOLVED:

i. To NOTE the draft proposed budget for 2026/27;
ii. To submit a precept estimate of £741,420 to WLDC.

Note: Councillor Dobbie abstained from voting on the above resolution.

FS26/102 Report on grants to the Council from external bodies (Paper G)

RESOLVED: to NOTE the report on grants to the Council from external bodies, under 6.22 of the Council's Structure and Functions *To be responsible for grants to the Council from external bodies.*

FS26/103 IT Provision for Members (Paper H)

RESOLVED: to **RECOMMEND to FULL COUNCIL** to:

i. Approve the purchase of x16 HP 250 G10 laptops (£6,800), (or to those Councillors that request one) and initial set up costs (£1,040).
ii. Upgrade to Premium licences at an additional £196.80/month.
iii. Approves the increase in the IT support agreement at an additional £294/month.
iv. That if Councillors request a laptop, hardcopy papers will no longer be provided.

Note: Councillor Dobbie abstained from voting on the above resolution.

FS26/104 Love Lane Allotment Garages (Paper I)

Members considered issues relating to the garages and electrical supply.

RESOLVED: to

i. Approve the Annual Garage Inspection Form, send letters to licensees with garages advising why the inspections are taking place.
ii. Disconnect the electricity supply from the garage within the report, prior to issuing a Licence to Occupy.
iii. Defer the remainder of the report to the December meeting and provide Members with a copy of the Licence to Occupy.

FS26/105 Items for Notification

RESOLVED: to **NOTE** the items for notification to be included on a future agendas:

i. Love Lane Allotment Garages
ii. Draft 2026 / 2027 Budget
iii. Marshalls Bowls Lease
iv. Operation Bridges Review
v. Unity Trust Bank
vi. Strategic Plan
vii. LCAS Silver Status submission
viii. Registrar Lease renewal
ix. Civic Protocol
x. Communications Policy Review
xi. GDPR Policy Review
xii. Social Media Policy Review
xiii. Pensions Discretionary Policy Review
xiv. Use of work vehicles by Cllrs & Staff for personal domestic use Review

FS26/106 Time and Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: to **NOTE** the date and time of the next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 6:30pm at Richmond House, Morton Terrace.

The meeting closed at 8:27pm.

Signed as a true record of the Meeting: ________________________ Dated_____________
Presiding chair of approving meeting