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 31 March 2026** 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 Nicholas Coxon
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Paul Key
Councillor Doug Owles (sub)
Councillor Richard Thompson (sub)

In Attendance:
Rachel Allbones — Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

FS26/155 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hooton, Woolley.

FS26/156 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

FS26/157 Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

FS26/158 Items for Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: To exclude the public and press from items FS26/165, FS26/166 and FS26/167 in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 1(2), due to the confidential nature of the business.

FS26/159 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Paper A)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

FS26/160 Finance Reports (Papers B, C & D)

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

i. Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 26 March 2026.

ii. Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 26 March 2026.
iii. Budget Comparison Report (including due and unpaid transactions) for 26 March 2026.

FS26/161 Bank Reconciliation (Paper E)
RESOLVED: That the monthly bank reconciliations for 28 February 2026 be approved and signed, with the following closing balances:
- HSBC Current/Deposit Account: £74,471.75
- CCLA: £350,000.00

FS25/162 HSBC Daily Payment Limit
RESOLVED: To approve increase of the HSBC daily payment limit from £30,000 to £50,000.

FS25/163 Earmarked Reserves (Paper F)
RESOLVED: To approve proposed ear marked reserves for YE 31st March 2026.

FS25/164 Internal Controls (Paper G)
RESOLVED: To review and approve the internal controls in place for 2025/26.

FS25/165 Outstanding Debtors (Paper H)
RESOLVED: To note the old debtors described in section 3 of the report.

FS26/166 Love Lane Allotment Garages (Paper I)
RESOLVED: To
i. Note the completion of inspections and the disconnection of electricity supplies.
ii. Approve the removal of garages on spaces: 248, 266, 272, 274
iii. Give priority to addressing garages identified as: damaged asbestos, structurally unsafe, or non-compliant with licence conditions
iv. Endorse a phased approach to implementation of the Council's long-term policy to revert sites to parking spaces only.
v. Request that the company removing garages carry out an asbestos survey and report their findings.

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

FS26/167 Fee Waiver Request (Paper J)
RESOLVED: To defer the decision until after:
- Completion of the planned drainage works; and
- Assessment of whether the issue has been resolved;

A letter will be sent to the individual advising that they will be invoiced as normal in April, but the Council will reconsider if the issue persists.

Note: Councillors Bowler and Coxon abstained from voting on the above resolution.

FS26/168 Items for Notification

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

i. Asset Register Review - April
ii. Risk Management Policy & Register Review – April
iii. Insurance – April
iv. Internal Audit Report 2025/26
v. Reserves Policy Review - May
vi. Year End Accounts 2025/2026 – May
vii. AGAR – Section 2 Accounting Statements – May
viii. Newsletter
ix. Operation Bridges Review
x. Civic Protocol
xi. Registrar Lease renewal
xii. Unity Trust Bank
xiii. Strategic Plan
xiv. LCAS Silver Status submission

FS26/169 Time and Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: to **NOTE** the date and time of the next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 6:30pm at Richmond House, Morton Terrace.

The meeting closed at 7:52pm.

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