

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 13 April 2026.

The meeting commenced at 7.16pm.

PRESENT

Cllr G Woodcraft

Cllr A Chaplin

Cllr C Cook

In attendance: Alice Gater-Wildgust (Town Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

25.541 Public Speaking Time

There were no public speakers.

25.542 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Lewis.

25.543 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10 November 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true record.

25.544 Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the final three months of the financial year were arguably the most critical. This year, there has been additional complexity with LGR and ensuing discussions around Community Asset Transfer. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by members to understand this area and to endeavour to protect the interests of the town. While initial discussions stalled, progress has now been made, with a focus on an initial transfer of the public toilets and contiguous assets. Looking ahead to 2026/27, there will be a review of areas where budget allocation was not fully utilised, including the Town Improvement Fund.

25.545 Income & Expenditure 2025/26

Details of the Income and Expenditure for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 were received. Members took this opportunity to ask questions and to further analyse the income and expenditure reports in detail, seeking clarification on variances, examining key areas of spending and income, and discussing any financial concerns or notable trends highlighted within the reports.

25.546 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 (AGAR)

Details of the 2025/26 AGAR were received, and it was

Resolved:

- i. To complete Section 1.
- ii. To recommend to the Town Council that the same be approved and signed.

25.547 Budget Heading

Details were received regarding budget heading for Town Improvements, Grass Cutting and Town Handyman (Budget headings 125/120/130) and it was:

Resolved:

- i. Members agreed to combine the above into a single budget heading 'Town Improvements' with further sub heading within. This will allow BSTC to more accurately reflect related activities and associated expenditure. It was further confirmed that this revision not reduce the level of financial detail available to the Council or residents. The Town Improvement Fund would incorporate existing budget areas, including the Town Handyman and Grass Cutting services.
- ii. To aid understanding it was agreed to revise the name of the budget heading. For 2026/27 this will be: Budget Heading 131 – Town Improvements and associated budget heading beneath this as 131/1, 131/2, 131/3.

25.548 Precept 2026/27

It was noted that BSTC requested £257764.00 Precept from East Devon District Council [Min 25.350].

It was further noted that this information, and the reasons for the increase, had been communicated to residents via the BSTC website, Facebook, and public hall noticeboards.

25.549 Any Other Business at the Chair's Discretion

No other business was raised.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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Chair

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Date

Approved