



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET
MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.57 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ciaran Cronnelly (Chair), Mike Bell, Gillian Bute, Mark Canniford, Peter Crew, Robert Payne, Lisa Pilgrim, Robert Skeen, Timothy Taylor and Helen Thornton.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Simon Harrison-Morse, Caroline Reynolds, Roger Bailey, John Stanfield, Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Helen Morton (Director of Finance & Resources) and Fay Powell (Director of Community Services-Deputy Town Clerk).

243	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin Williams substituted by Councillor Peter Crew. Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Simon Harrison-Morse, Caroline Reynolds, Roger Bailey, John Stanfield were in attendance.
244	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.
245	To approve the Minutes of the previous Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 16th December 2024 The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly A vote was taken and carried . Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 16TH December be approved and signed by the Chair.

246 To recommend a Draft Budget for 2025/2026 to Town Council

The Draft Budget 2025-2026 and supporting briefing notes providing background and overview of the Budget document and Play Strategy had been previously circulated.

A discussed ensued around the following areas

- General reserves
- Museum Café Staffing
- Parks and Play areas and the repercussions on play strategy budget and maintenance taking more sites on from NSC

7.27pm Councillor Mark Canniford left the meeting

- Bus Shelters

Debate continued around the need to ensure that there was robust financial planning in place to allow for future devolution within this year's budget year. It was recognised that although the specifics had not been agreed it was inevitable that services would come down from NSC. It was felt that the council had to start its financial planning now in order for it to be affordable, recognising that the reserves currently held would not cover the aspirations that the council had identified with regard to future asset transfer.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Jill Bute

To add an additional £350,000 into the budget to create an Earmarked reserve for future years devolution.

A vote was taken and accordingly, it was **lost**. (4 for 5 against)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Timothy Taylor

SECONDED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

RESOLVED: That the draft budget, incorporating the above changes, be recommended to the Town Council for approval at its meeting on the 3rd February 2025 as follows:

Total Precept Requirement: £4,108,538

Band D Equivalent cost £151.37

A vote was taken and accordingly, it was **carried**. (6 for 3 against)

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.57 pm

Signed.....Dated

Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

