



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF Finance & Strategic Planning Committee [In-person] held on **Tuesday 09 September 2025 at 17:00**. The meeting was held in the **Ottery St. Mary Town Council Offices, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary EX11 1BZ**

Present: Cllrs Dean Stewart, Richard Grainger (Vice Chair), Ben Feasey and Vicky Johns (Mayor)
In Attendance: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk
Minute Taker: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

FSP/25/09/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr Aherne. During the meeting Cllr Lucas gave his apologies.

FSP/25/09/02 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To receive Declarations of interest for items on the Agenda and receipt of requests for new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) dispensations for items on the Agenda

Cllr Stewart	No interests were declared.
Cllr Grainger	No interests were declared.
Cllr Feasey	No interests were declared.
Cllr Johns	No interests were declared.

FSP/25/09/03 ADMISSION TO MEETINGS

In consideration of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted): to agree any items to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded

It was **RESOLVED** that Agenda Item F/25/09/06 Consideration of Community Grant Applications would be discussed in Confidential Session as they include information relating to the organisations finances.

FSP/25/09/04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To allow members of the public present to submit questions/comments for consideration
Individual contributions will be limited to 3 minutes

There were none.

FSP/25/09/05 MINUTES

Chair's initials _____

To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee meeting of 12th August 2025 (FSP/25/08/01 - FSP/25/08/17) by the Chair as a correct record

The minutes of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee meeting of 12th August 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the meeting.

FSP/25/09/06 CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications received from Friends of Ottery Library and Ottery St Mary Handbell Ringers and any further applications received

Under s.1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Representatives from Friends of Ottery St Mary Library discussed their grant application.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £700 is awarded.

Representatives from Ottery St Mary Handbell Ringers discussed their grant application.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £500 is awarded and that the grant offer stipulates that their fleeces should be purchased locally.

The Confidential Session ended.

FSP/25/09/07 TO REVIEW THE COUNCILLOR SURVEY RESULTS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE STRATEGY DOCUMENT AND TO MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

The survey results were noted. The feedback will be incorporated into the Strategy Document and put forward to the next Finance Committee for their comments before being presented to the Full Council.

FSP/25/09/08 TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL HAS A YOUTH STRATEGY AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

The Council are awaiting the results of the Youth Survey which closes on 12th September.

FSP/25/09/09 TO REVIEW THE UPDATED INVESTMENT POLICY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS APPROPRIATE

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Investment Policy.

It was AGREED that the Clerk will speak to the accountant regarding the current savings arrangements.

FSP/25/09/10 TO CONSIDER BUDGET FOR 2026/27 AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS APPROPRIATE

Chair's initials _____

It was **RECOMMENDED** that all Committees consider whether they have any larger projects planned for the next financial year.

Consideration will need to be given to any community asset transfers through local government reorganisation and the associated costs.

DCK Accounting Services will be visiting the Council Offices on 17th November and will meet with the committee.

FSP/25/09/11 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING S106 MONIES AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

Following feedback from the EDDC Section 106 Officer it was noted that the improved Skatepark access cannot be included as an option for the S106 as no members of the public mentioned this – any comments relating to the skatepark were for a new skatepark in a new location and the funds available would not cover the cost of a new park.

It was noted that improvements to Winters Lane Playing Field can be included in the survey. The Clerk is awaiting information from EDDC regarding the costs. The survey will then be published for a four week period.

FSP/25/09/12 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK REGARDING ANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

It is anticipated that the outstanding insurance claim should be resolved shortly.

FSP/25/09/13 TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

An email correspondence was noted. The Clerk will respond to advise that the Council do not fund individuals but will provide some signposting of other funding opportunities.

FSP/25/09/14 TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were none.

FSP/25/09/15 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

It was noted that both the Coleridge Bridge and the Land of Canaan Footbridge will now open together.

FSP/25/09/16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 14TH OCTOBER 2025

Reports & Appendix 1

Chair's initials _____

Meeting concluded at 18:40

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Chair's initials _____

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Chair's initials _____