



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF Finance & Strategic Planning Committee [In-person] held on **Tuesday 09 December 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 Ben Feasey, Dean Stewart (Chair), Janice Aherne, Richard Grainger (Deputy Chair), Vicky Johns (Mayor) and Emily Peka
In Attendance: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk
Minute Taker: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

FSP/25/12/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

All Councillors were present.

FSP/25/12/02 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 declared. During the meeting Cllr Stewart declared an 'affects NRI' in relation to agenda item FSP/25/12/06 as the Ottery Larder collaborates with Project Food on some projects but not the project in question.
Cllr Johns	No interests declared. During the meeting Cllr Johns declared an 'affects NRI' in relation to agenda item FSP/25/12/06 as the Ottery Larder collaborates with Project Food on some projects but not the project in question.
Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.
Cllr Aherne	No interests declared.
Cllr Feasey	No interests declared.
Cllr Peka	No interests declared.

On behalf of the Committee Cllr Stewart welcomed Cllr Peka to the Finance & Strategic Planning Committee.

FSP/25/12/03 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

Chair's initials _____

It was **RESOLVED** that Agenda item FSP/25/12/06 - Consideration of Community Grant Applications would be discussed in Confidential Session as they include information relating to the organisation finances.

FSP/25/12/04 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/25/12/05 MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee meeting of 11th November 2025 (FSP/25/11/01 - FSP/25/11/17) by the Chair as a correct record

The minutes of 11th November 2025 were signed by the Chair as a correct record of the meeting.

FSP/25/12/06 CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications received from Project Food, Ottery St Mary Bowling Club, Hospiscare 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.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £250 is awarded to Project Food for the first course and if it is successful (attended by at least 6 Ottery St Mary residents who complete the course) a further £250 will be awarded.

It was **AGREED** that representatives from Ottery St Mary Bowling Club and Hospiscare will be invited to a Teams meeting on Monday 22nd December at 4pm to discuss their grant applications.

The Confidential session ended.

FSP/25/12/07 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING WORK ON THE STRATEGY DOCUMENT INCLUDING A YOUTH STRATEGY AND TO MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

The Strategy documents were reviewed and will be updated by Cllr Feasey.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the updated Strategy and Youth Strategy documents are approved and adopted by the Full Council.

FSP/25/12/08 TO CONSIDER BUDGET FOR 2026/27 AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS APPROPRIATE

The draft budget for 2026/27 was reviewed. While there remain many unknown factors arising from Local Government Reorganisation, the Council anticipates that it will be required to assume

Chair's initials _____

responsibility for the maintenance of additional assets within the parish, along with the associated costs.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the precept is increased to £447,029. This equates to an increase per year of £42.62 (40.26%) for a Band D property.

FSP/25/12/09 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING S106 MONIES AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

The Football Club have confirmed that their future projects remain. The Clerk will work with EDDC to launch the consultation.

FSP/25/12/10 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK REGARDING ANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

The Clerk advised that a concern had been raised by a local business owner to the Town Council regarding the disparity in business rates across our area. They are concerned there are significant inconsistencies in the base rates applied to different premises. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will contact the three EDDC Councillors for the parish to ask them to investigate matter and confirm whether any support is available for independent retailers adversely impacted by these increases?

FSP/25/12/11 TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

It was **AGREED** that DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd will be used for Year End and Closedown on Rialtas.

It was **RESOLVED** that £10,000 will be moved into the CCLA account and if the processes work early next year a further £250,000 will be moved.

FSP/25/12/12 TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were none.

FSP/25/12/13 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

Cllrs Peka and Feasey gave their apologies for the next meeting.

FSP/25/12/14 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 13TH JANUARY 2026

Reports & Appendix 1

Meeting concluded at 18:30

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