

AGENDA 6, Enc i) ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, AGREED Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 14th April 2026, at Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RX

CLLRS PRESENT:

Cllrs Lynne Grimshaw (Chair), Kerry Davison, David Coyle, Marjorie Chambers, Louis Brown, Bob Walkinshaw, Caroline Ball, Melanie Fox, Jim Lang, Sonia Simm, Karl Green, Mark Purvis and Glyn Davies.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Eden – Executive Officer, Alan Bunker – Allotments Officer, and Gary Holmes – Administration and Communications Officer

FGS2526/163 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Welcome by Cllr Lynne Grimshaw.

FGS2526/164 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Scott Amery

FGS2526/165 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

FGS2526/166 DISPENSATIONS

No dispensations were requested.

FGS2526/167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

FGS2526/168 DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Finance and General Services Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April were **RECEIVED** and **AGREED** as a true record.

FGS2526/169 CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

FGS2526/170 ACCOUNTS PAID

To receive a schedule of accounts paid; to endorse those accounts paid since the last meeting

FGS2526/171 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2024/25: COMBINED FGS COMMITTEE AND FULL COUNCIL MEETING

To consider and agree that a combined meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee and Full Council be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 for the purpose of approving the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26, including the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

FGS2526/172 ASSET REGISTER POLICY, CAPITALISATION THRESHOLD AND AGAR RE-STATEMENT

To receive a report and policy recommendations from the Executive Officer that seeks approval for the adoption of a minimum capitalisation threshold of £250 for the inclusion of assets within

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the Asset Register, based on a risk-based methodology aligned to the Council's insurance excess, asset useful life, and materiality

FGS2526/173 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLATFORM – CIVICLY

To receive an Executive Summary from the Executive Officer that seeks approval for the adoption of Civic.ly, a digital asset management platform purpose-built for town and parish councils. To receive the business case developed in close collaboration with Civic.ly, based on a detailed assessment of Ashington Town Council's current operations, assets, and forward ambitions

FGS2526/174 PADDOCK WOOD PLAY AREA

To receive the report and, having considered the recommendations, to agree that Paddock Wood Play Area is designated as the Council's next priority site for investment in play provision; that drainage issues are investigated; that a programme of community consultation is commenced; and that the budget available from earmarked reserves as well as any available funding is considered prior to procurement

FGS2526/175 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT AND SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMME

To receive the report of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting, held on 20th April 2026 In respect of the proposed summer food programme, to consider the allocation of funding from the Youth Budget in principle and to delegate authority to the Executive Officer, in consultation with the Youth Advisory Committee, to confirm the level of contribution and commit expenditure once full details of the expected programme and external funding are received.

FGS2526/176 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members are invited to consider passing the following resolution:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, permitted under Section 1 (2) LGA 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

FGS2526/177 SEASONAL OPERATIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

To receive a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to commence recruitment of a seasonal operative for Neighbourhood Services support during high season, from June through to October/November

FGS2526/178 DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23rd June 2026, 6:00pm, Council Chamber.

The meeting ended at 18:43