

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

**Members of the Committee: Cllrs. Farrow (Chair), Sedgewick (Vice-Chair), Birnie, Bourne, Brooker (A), Burrough, Holt, Leat, Spurway and Walden.**

The Guildhall,  
Axminster,  
Devon.

22 February 2023

Dear Councillor,

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee which will take place at the Axminster Guildhall at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

This meeting will be recorded, and recordings will be held for one year by the town council. If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand and you will be invited to speak by the Chair. Voting will also take place by show of hands and the Chair will indicate the votes have been noted.

Members and the public are reminded that remarks must be addressed through the Chair.

Members are reminded:

- a) Of their obligation to **declare the existence and nature of any personal interests** they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting and to **withdraw if it is a pecuniary** one.
- b) That in reaching decisions they should take into consideration the Town Council's decision to reduce its carbon footprint in the light of the **climate/environment emergency**.
- c) To ensure that their discussions include full consideration of the points set out in the Town Council's **risk management** strategy.

**Public Forum Session (limited to 15 minutes or as otherwise agreed by presiding Chair).**

**SF23/001**

**To note members of this committee present:**

**SF23/002**

**To receive and, if thought fit, approve apologies for absence (and reasons therefore):**

LGA 1972 S.85 (1)

**SF23/003**

**To note members of the committee not otherwise present and to receive any other apologies for absence:**

**SF23/004**

**To receive any declarations of interest from members of the committee in relation to items of business on this agenda and to note any dispensations previously afforded.**

*This does not preclude the need for members to declare any additional interests that may arise during the meeting.*

*Continued overleaf.*

### **SF23/005**

To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Strategy & Finance Committee meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes.

### **SF23/006**

To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

### **SF23/007**

**Business to be considered:**

- a) To consider report from RFO on Council's Risk Management & Assessment Annual Review.
- b) To consider second draft of Council's revised Financial Regulations (following member feedback)
- c) To consider (and affirm) the "scope and purpose" of the Strategy & Finance Committee
- d) To consider whether to formally adopt (and comply with) the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 (for larger authorities).
- e)i) To consider whether Axminster Town Council wishes to forge closer links and bolster cooperation with Seaton Town Council (as joint parties in the Axe Valley Local Government Catchment area) on matters such as tourism, economy, climate action and governance \* and,
- e)ii) To consider how Axminster Town Council would wish to work with other local partners and stakeholders to promote, bolster and support tourism in the Axminster parish area.

*(\* This item was deferred to the committee by FULL Council on 13/02/2023)*

- f) To consider future sponsorship of the Citizen of the Year (Robin Cross) Award and to also consider the "grant of benefit" (under s137 Local Government Act 1972) awarded to the recipient each year.
- g) To consider matters pertaining to the ongoing Axminster Renewal Forum / Urban Renewal project and to decide how the Town Council engages with the process and on what projects it wishes to be seen as the "lead stakeholder" (if any).
- h) To consider any assets (land or chattels) that this Town Council wishes to seek ownership of under the nascent EDDC Community Asset Transfer policy.

### **SF23/008**

**To consider any matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for discussion/notation only:**

### **SF23/009**

*Vice-Chair to propose that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 the public, (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

**Committee business to be considered in Part Two:**

*Continued overleaf.*

## Committee business to be considered in Part Two:

### SF23/010 (IC)

To receive a report from the Clerk on a potential land acquisition opportunity in the parish and to decide whether this Council wishes to begin negotiations/discussions with the freeholder to provide improved open public space amenity in the town. \*

This matter is deemed confidential due to the commercial sensitivity of the subject to be discussed and the nature of the information to be considered by members.

(\* This item was deferred to the committee by FULL Council on 13/02/2023)

### SF23/011 (IC)

To consider proposals pertaining to the ongoing maintenance of the Town Council's assets (buildings) and to agree upon a schedule of works / prioritisation of said works based on the information available to the committee; to receive report from Clerk.

This matter is deemed confidential as it pertains to financial & legal information considered commercially sensitive.

### SF23/012 (IC)

To receive update from the Clerk on the matter considered at FULL Council on 30/01/2023, namely:

**EFC23/009 (IC) To consider matters pertaining to the Axminster Guildhall,**

**This matter is deemed confidential as it pertains to financial, legal & employment information considered commercially sensitive.**

*With no further business to attend to, the Chair will bring the meeting to an end.*

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Hayward*  
Town Clerk

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023