

Axminster Town Council statement – Sale of the Old Courthouse Building.

Axminster Town Council is pleased to confirm the completion of the sale of the Old Court House to the Flannagan Partnership.

The Town Council proceeded with the sale, following all relevant legislation, to satisfy itself that the property was sold at best value for the town, with the final sale price achieved being above the original asking / reserve value.

The Town Council would like to thank everyone who has taken an interest in the future of the Old Court House and to wish the Flannagan Partnership every success with the property and their plans for its future use. For the avoidance of doubt, the Arts Café remains trading and open for business as usual.

This Grade Two listed building is a key part of Axminster's heritage and we understand that the Partnership will be discussing their plans with the EDDC Conservation officer to ensure that any proposals accord with the rules that govern changes to iconic listed buildings such as this one.

The Public Garden

The public garden associated with the Old Court House is now closed as this space formed part of the overall property sale.

All Town Council benches have been removed from the garden, and the Council is currently looking for a suitable new location for them so that they can continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors to Axminster. We will be liaising with the families of those who originally donated some of the benches, to seek their directions and wishes on where these could be re-purposed for maximum public amenity and benefit.

The Town Council appreciates and welcomes the community's interest in these local amenities and will provide further information about the benches and their new location when suitable arrangements have been confirmed and agreed with all stakeholders involved.

Furthermore, the Town Council is actively seeking opportunities for additional town centre and parish amenity provision but recognises that there are constraints in terms of availability and price.

The proceeds from the sale have been ring-fenced by a resolution of the Town Council for future capital and place-making projects which will directly benefit the town and our residents, visitors and our business community. This means that the Town Council retains the ability to act in a timely and responsive manner should any future opportunities arise which require active and prompt investment in order to secure a commercial advantage. One such project is being considered at the present time by Councillors and a further press statement will be released when more details are available and when preliminary research work has been completed.

Please contact the Town Council at The Guildhall if you have any queries in respect of this matter.

Paul Hayward, Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Axminster Town Council

14/10/2026

Tel: **01297 32088**

Email: **clerk@axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk**