

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Members of the Committee: Cllrs. Farrow (Chair), plus all serving members of the FULL Council on an ex-officio basis until further notice.

The Guildhall,
Axminster,
Devon.

21 April 2026

Dear Councillors,

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 27th April 2026.

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).

SF26/040

To note members of this committee present:

SF26/041

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

LGA 1972 S.85 (1)

SF26/042

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

SF26/043

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.

*At the FULL Council meeting held 09/02/2026, Cllr. Willey was afforded a dispensation * to discuss and vote upon matters pertaining to The Guildhall. This dispensation applies until May 2027 (unless rescinded prior to that date) and is afforded in respect of Cllr. Willey's disclosable pecuniary and personal interests as set out in the Register of Members Interests. * Localism Act 2011 (s.33).*

SF26/044

To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Strategy & Finance Committee meeting held 23rd February 2026 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes.

SF26/045

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 [other than SF26/059 to 060 (incl.) as shown below].

Strategy & Finance Business to be considered:

SF26/046

To consider Axminster Town Council Action Plan FY26-27: To review the Council's aims, objectives and goals for the future, and to consider any matters relating to Local Government reorganisation that may affect that plan.

SF26/047

To receive and consider draft copies of the end-of-year Annual Governance Return and Accounting Statements (FY25-26) for this authority prior to internal auditors visit (final approval of the AGAR must be undertaken by the Full Council).

SF26/048

To note the Council's obligations under The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and to confirm that the Council has provided and published the necessary information required within those regulations; *AGAR Section 1 (Internal Audit) Assurance L & AGAR Section 2 (Governance Statements) Assertion 10.*

SF26/049

To consider any necessary revisions to the Council's bank signatory register.

SF26/050

To consider any financial or strategic matters pertaining to The Old Courthouse.

SF26/051

To consider wording of the draft "Anti-Bribery and Corruption" Policy.

SF26/052

To consider wording of the draft "Dispensations" Policy.

SF26/053

To consider wording of the draft "Statement on Confidential Business ie. Part Two session"

SF26/054

To review and, if considered fit, re-approve and adopt the Strategy & Finance Committee Terms of Reference; *previously adopted in June 2023*

SF26/055

To consider any matters pertaining to the Town Council's ongoing relationship and service agreements with the principal authorities ie EDDC and DCC.

SF26/056

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

Continued Overleaf

SF26/057

To note the date of future scheduled meetings of this committee;

29th June 2026

28th September 2026

30th November 2026 (initial budget and precept review)

4th January 2027 (budget finalisation)

Additional meetings may be required if other matters of urgent business need to be considered.

SF26/058

Recommendation: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely, the financial affairs or business affairs or employment affairs of the Town Council by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Committee business to be considered in Part Two:

SF26/059 (IC)

To consider update report on matters pertaining to The Old Courthouse.

RFO to present report.

As this agenda item relates to commercially sensitive business, this item will be considered as a Part Two confidential matter.

SF26/060 (IC)

To receive update report on matters pertaining to ongoing Section 106 play projects

Clerk/RFO to present report.

As this agenda item relates to commercially sensitive business, this item will be considered as a Part Two confidential matter.

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

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hayward
Town Clerk

21st April 2026