

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Members of the Committee: Cllr. Price (Chair), Cllr. Hayward (Vice-Chair) plus all serving members of the FULL Council until further notice.

The Guildhall,
Axminster,
Devon.

23 September 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 28th Sept. 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).

SF26/077

To note members of this committee present:

SF26/078

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

LGA 1972 S.85 (1)

SF26/079

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

SF26/080

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 This dispensation applies until May 2027 (unless rescinded prior to that date) and is afforded in respect of Cllr.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).*

Continued Overleaf

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SF26/081

To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Strategy & Finance Committee meeting held 29th June 2026 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes:

SF26/082

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 SF26/093 and 094 as shown below].

Strategy & Finance Business to be considered:

SF26/083

To note the financial reports for July & August 2026 including budget monitor, bank reconciliation, the Insignis investment portfolio summary and reserve fund summary and to consider any virements that the Council consider appropriate or necessary:

SF26/084

To consider the Town Council's investment strategy in respect of cash deposits / balances and to consider any variation to the existing investment policy and term / risk appetite.

SF26/085

To consider any financial matters pertaining to The Old Courthouse complex:

SF26/086

To consider Axminster Town Council Action Plan FY26-27: *to review the Council's aims, objectives and goals for the future:*

SF26/087

To consider any matters relating to the postponement of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals that may affect that plan; members to discuss future service / amenity and the impact of such service delivery upon the Town Council's resources and finances and future budgetary considerations and decisions:

i) To consider any strategic plans / projects that may have a material effect on the Town Council's financial position and / or resources and capacity.

SF26/088

To note that the next scheduled meeting of the committee is planned for 23rd November 2026 and will primarily be focussed on budgetary matters; members to consider and discuss any matters pertaining to that subject that members may wish the Clerk/RFO to research/investigate/budget for in anticipation of that meeting.

SF26/089

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

SF26/090

To consider any matters pertaining to ongoing/future Town Council building works projects and any related topics such as financing, works planning and impact on other Council operations.

SF26/091

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

23rd November 2026 (initial budget and precept review) [see above SF26/088]

4th January 2027 (budget finalisation)

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

SF26/092

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 Closed (excluded) Session:

SF26/093 (IC)

To consider update RFO 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 Closed Session confidential matter.

SF26/094 (IC)

To consider matters pertaining to Community Engagement and Town Centre publicity (events).

Clerk to present report.

As this agenda item relates to a commercially sensitive topic, this item will be considered as a Closed Session 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

23rd September 2026