



## **MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL MATTERS MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL**

**Present:** Councillors D Peters (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, T Bennett, J Hannam, E Price and M Trant.

**Apologies:** Cllr J Chinnock.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Hodgson, C Marlton (Town Clerk).

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair read a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded. The apologies were accepted.

*The Committee adjourned for the following item:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Hodgson requested that the Town Council allocates funding for a replacement bollard outside Happy Apple/Fire Fly on the High Street due to parking and obstruction issues - informal support was given for up to £700 funding from the Environment and Public Realm Budget. Cllr Hodgson also raised the matter of £12,000 funding needed for TRAYE (Totnes Rural Area Youth Enterprise) in 2026/27. It was explained to members that £50,000 community grant funding is in the proposed draft budget but that the decision on the allocation of this will be taken after the conclusion of the Community Audit.

*The Committee reconvened.*

### **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**To approve the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were **AGREED** unanimously as an accurate record of the proceedings.

### **3. BUDGET MONITOR**

**To consider the Budget Monitor.**

The budget monitor was **AGREED** unanimously.

### **4. STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUPS**

**To consider any budgetary recommendations from:**

**a. Economy Working Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.**

No recommendations.

**b. Environment and Public Realm Working Group, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

The Working Group recommendations for the 2026/27 budget allocations and moves of underspend to EMR were unanimously **AGREED** but it was noted that the Committee will consider this further and make a recommendation to Full Council in January 2026.

#### **5. DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27**

**To consider an initial draft budget for financial year 2026/27.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

- The draft 2026/27 budget is adopted (subject to a minor amendment); and
- A precept increase of a minimum of 7.5 percent and maximum of 10 percent is adopted.

#### **6. PAYMENTS TO COUNCILLORS POLICY**

**To review the Payments to Councillors Policy.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the revised Payments to Councillors Policy is adopted.

#### **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**To note the date of the next meeting of the Council Matters Committee – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.30pm in the Guildhall.**

Noted.

*The Committee **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public “by reason of the confidential nature of the business” to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (CONFIDENTIAL by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council)*

#### **8. BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS (Standing Item)**

**To consider the bank statements and reconciliations for November (financial).**

These were reviewed and **AGREED** unanimously.

#### **9. STAFFING UPDATE**

**For any general or urgent updates that required confidential sharing with Councillors (staffing).**

Noted.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Catherine Marlton  
Town Clerk  
December 2025