

## **COWES TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in the Drawing Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 6.15pm.

**Present:** Councillors White (Chair), Ellis, Marriott, Peacey Wilcox and Rafferty.

**In attendance:** Richard Shaul, Responsible Financial Officer and Councillor Nicholson (non-voting).

### **1110 ELECTION OF A CHAIR OF THE FINANCE, ACQUISITIONS & STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Councillor White expressed an interest in being Chair They were proposed and seconded, and it was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Councillor White be appointed as Chair of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee for the year 2026 / 2027.**

### **1111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adams.

### **1112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **1113 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 April 2026 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### **1114 PROVISION OF BADGES OF OFFICE**

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**That badges of office be provided for the Past Mayor, Mayor's Consort and Communications and Funding Manager**

### **1115 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

The RFO advised that the grants budget for 2026/2027 is £15,000. Councillors were asked to consider the following applications for grants:

- i. Cowes Open Bowls tournament 2026 - £600
- ii. Feeding Isle of Wight, relocation costs - £5,000 Note, grant requested exceeds the maximum grant allowed of £1,500. RFO advised that confirmation has now been received that relocation can take place.
- iii. Cowes Fringe – £1,500. Grant application was originally received in February but there were several delays in processing, so the event has already taken place.
- iv. St. John's Ambulance - £300. The RFO advised insufficient accounting information had been received; this application was not discussed further.
- v. The Footprint Trust - £1,000.

After a full discussion about each application, it was:

#### **RECOMMENDED**

- a. **That a grant of £600 be awarded to Cowes Open Bowls Tournament**
- b. **That a grant of £1,500 be awarded to Feeding the Wight**

- c. That a retrospective grant of £1,500 be awarded to Cowes Fringe
- d. That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to The Footprint Trust.

**1116 INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AUTHORISERS ON THE LLOYDS BANK MANDATE TO 4**

Cowes Town Council currently has 3 authorisers on the mandate with Lloyds Bank. One of these will be standing down leaving only 2. It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Cowes Town Council adds a further 2 authorisers to the Lloyds Bank mandate to bring the total to 4.**

**1117 HOSPITALITY ALLOWANCE BUDGET HEADING**

Decision on this item was deferred pending further discussion between Chair, Town Clerk and RFO as to how a hospitality budget would operate.

**1118 UPDATE ON THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND**

Of the original 100 Aldi vouchers available, 10 remain available for issue.

**1119 STAFFING MATTERS**

None reported

**1120 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS**

None reported

**1121 STAFF CONCERNS**

None reported

**1122 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

- a. Clarification/update to grants procedures
- b. Clarification as to how a hospitality budget heading would work.

The proceedings terminated at 18.57pm.

**CHAIR**