

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).

1165 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.

1166 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adams and Councillor Walters.

1167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

1168 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.

1169 PROVISION OF BADGES OF OFFICE

RECOMMENDED

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

1170 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.

1171 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.

1172 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.

1173 UPDATE ON THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

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

1174 STAFFING MATTERS

None reported

1175 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

None reported

1176 STAFF CONCERNS

None reported

1177 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