



Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 30th March 2026 at St Mary's Place Community Room, Cleobury Mortimer commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Guy James, Cllr David Abbatiello (in-part), Cllr Helen Smith and Cllr Sally Burns.
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs D McBride.

Chair, Cllr Hainsworth welcomed everyone to the March Finance Committee meeting.

03.01.26F Apologies for absence.
There were no apologies.

03.02.26F Declaration of interests.
There were no declarations of interest.

03.03.26F Public Participation Session.
There were three members of public present, representing the Friends of Cleobury Sports Centre. The Friends asked to receive the £15,000, which the Town Council has precepted for, in full, rather than it being held by the Town Council to fund any shortfall in their fund-raising. Council reiterated that it supports the Friends and the need to keep the Sports Centre open, furthermore the £15,000 is secured and will be paid as per the Council's decision in February when it approved the budget. The Finance Committee Chair stated that the Council is committed in its support but has to ensure it meets its legal obligations when managing taxpayers money, hence stating that it would hold the money until it was needed.
Cllr Abbatiello expressed his view that he disagreed with this and was withdrawing his vote from the previous Council decision regarding this funding. The Chair stated that the Council's decision regarding the budget was made and votes cannot be retracted.
After the members of public had left the meeting, Cllr Abbatiello voiced further criticism of the Council - its people, processes and actions - and stated some people should not be councillors.
At 7.35pm, Cllr Abbatiello left the meeting and the Chair adjourned the meeting for a short break.
At 7.37pm, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

03.04.26F Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026.
The Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026, were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

03.05.26F Matters Arising from the Minutes / Update since last Finance Committee meeting.
The Clerk had circulated the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee with the Meeting papers. These had been read and duly noted. Terms of Reference for all Committees will be reviewed at the Council meeting in June where any proposed amendments will be considered.

03.06.26F 2025-26 Accounts year-to-date.
1. The Receipts and Payments account figures were reviewed against budget and year-end forecast figures. It was noted that the year-to-date actual totals are fairly representative of the expected year-end figures. The Finance Committee approved the Receipts and Payments as presented and this was duly signed by the Chair.
2. The Bank Reconciliation was reviewed as being correct and duly signed by the Chair.
3. The Petty Cash Account was reviewed as being correct and duly signed by the Chair.
4. The Earmarked Reserves were reviewed along with capital and revenue expenditure items. Efforts will be made to contact local Dementia support groups regarding making a donation. The Finance Committee approved the Earmarked Reserves and this document was duly signed by the Chair.

03.07.26F Business Plan for 2026-27.
The Committee reviewed the proposed Business Plan and, with a few small amendments the Business Plan was approved. There will be a discussion on Shropshire Council's proposed devolution of assets and services at the next Finance Committee meeting. The proposed multi-use games area on the Playing Field will be progressed with an aspiration for this project to go ahead for installation in 2027-28. Concerns were raised regarding the co-ordination and lack of committee oversight of the 800th Event. Council requires monthly updates for accountability and governance purposes.

Initials.....GH.....



03.08.26F Annual Audit.

The Committee confirmed the ongoing appointment of JDH Business Services Ltd as internal auditor for 2026-27 and noted the start of the annual audit process for 2025-26. Cllr Burns confirmed, that following last year's audit, there are now quarterly audits of the Cemetery administration.

03.09.26F Asset Register.

The Committee reviewed the Asset Register and confirmed the amendments made during the year for new purchases and approved writing off £6,821.99 of obsolete and faulty items. The Committee noted there had been a recent meeting with the insurance advisor to assess council assets and activities for insurance purposes. A quote is expected to undertake a revaluation of the public toilets.

03.10.26F Banking Arrangements.

The Committee reviewed and confirmed the current banking arrangements, recurring direct debits and debit card payments.

03.11.26F Publication Scheme.

The Committee reviewed and adopted the updated Publication Scheme.

03.12.26F Cleobury Sports Centre

The Committee considered its options to financially support Cleobury Sports Centre. The Committee felt that making two payments of £7,500 in the 2026-27 financial year, could be made as per the proposed terms and conditions in the draft grant agreement for leisure services. The updated draft agreement will be ratified by the Committee and then reviewed with representatives of the Friends of Cleobury Sports Centre and Teme Leisure as joint parties.

03.13.26F Date of the next Finance Committee meeting.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday 27th July 2026 at 7pm at St Mary's Place Community Room, Cleobury Mortimer.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed Chair: G. Hainsworth

Date: 27th July 2026