

Minutes of the Finance Committee

A meeting of the **Finance Committee** was held on **Tuesday 17th March 2026** at **19:00 hrs** at the **Council Chamber, The Garth, Launton Rd, OX26 6PS**.

Present:

Cllr Alisa Russell (Chair)
Cllr Rachel Mallows
Cllr Paul Wheatley
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Donna Ford
Cllr Tom Beckett
Cllr Jim Webb

In Attendance:

Trevor Longfield - Responsible Finance Officer
Viktorija Kovale - Finance Administrator

29/2 Apologies for Absence

526 RESOLVED that no apologies were received.

30/2 Declarations of Interest

526 RESOLVED that no declarations were received.

31/2 Minutes of the Finance Committee

526 RESOLVED to **CONFIRM** the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on:

- **FIN04/2526** held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 19:00hrs.

The Committee discussed matters relating to quorum requirements for sub-committee meetings and the attendance of councillors at meetings. Following the discussion, members agreed that further advice should be sought to clarify the relevant rules and responsibilities.

32/2 Public Session

526 RESOLVED that no members of the public were present.

Finance Performance Report

33/2 RESOLVED that Committee **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** the Income, Expenditure and Variances Report to February 2026.

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Brief discussions took place regarding the surplus position and current interest rate matters.

34/2 Bank and Cash Balances

526 RESOLVED that Committee **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** the attached report detailing bank balances at the end of February 2026.

Councillors discussed the possibility of Bicester Town Council moving to an alternative banking provider. However, members noted that there is currently insufficient capacity or specialist support available to undertake the necessary work to progress this consideration. The Chair advised the RFO to review the matter when time and capacity allow and to bring it back to a future meeting.

35/2 Standing Orders and Direct Debits

526 RESOLVED that the Committee **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** standing orders and direct debits.

36/2 Reserves Report

526 RESOLVED that the Committee **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** the earmarked reserve balances at the end of February 2026.

Cllr questioned why the Mess Room expenses came from Play Areas Reserves. RFO replied that the full title is Play Areas & Open Spaces and that it should be split.

37/2 Payments

526 RESOLVED that the Committee **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** the report.

Councillors reminded officers that all payments exceeding £500 must be published on the Council's website for public transparency.

38/2 Accounts Receivable

526 RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the verbal report presented by the RFO, and the Chair advised that the report should be reviewed further prior to seeking any future approval.

No date for next meeting has been agreed.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 19:52hrs