



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Fiona Coley
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Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 6TH November 2025 held at the
Masonic Hall, South Street CO11 1BG

Present: Cllr. R Stocks (Chair)
Cllr. M. Taylor.
Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie
Cllr F. Gee
Cllr L. Dunnett

In attendance: Fiona Coley (Clerk)
Members of the public: None

11.25.01 OPENING STATEMENT

11.25.02 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Council to receive apologies for absence – Cllr Keep & Cllr Simmonds who sent belated apologies due to an emergency.
- b) Council to consent to accept apologies received – **aif**

11.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests, and non-registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct –
- b) Cllr Stocks & Cllr Taylor – Business Chamber
- c) Cllr Dunnett – Street Keepers
- d) To receive notification of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50 - None
- e) To receive requests for dispensations - None

11.25.04 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To consider and approve the [minutes](#) of the previous Finance meeting held on 1st May 2025 – **Approved, aif and signed by Mayor. Cllr Dunnett abstained.**

05.25.05 - PUBLIC FORUM

- a) To receive any questions or comments from members of the public related to Manningtree in general - None
- b) To receive any questions or comments from members of the public about items on the agenda - None

11.25.06 TO REVIEW YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE VERSUS BUDGETED EXPENDITURE FOR 2025/2026

The document was reviewed thoroughly and an in-depth discussion in relation to the proposed draft figures set by the Clerk and Cllr Dunnett for 2026/27. Items were discussed individually and recalculated in line with what was spent in 25/26, and the expected spend for 26/27. It is very clear that it will be a very tight budget again for 26/27, however recognition that the precept is likely to have to increase.

It was acknowledged that our reserves fund is not as healthy as it should be and again, it was felt that this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. The Clerk advised that it is very well accepted to have 3 times your precept in reserves.

It was decided to put this item on the agenda for November’s meeting so that it can be discussed further.

The Clerk will continue to review spending and makes any savings that are possible, still providing value for money.

All Councillors and the Clerk agreed that they would like to keep the increase to the Precept as low as possible.

11.25.07 – TO CONSIDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND OTHER PROJECTS FOR 2026/27

There are some ear marked funds, one of which is the Town sign. It was felt that it would be good to continue to put some money away in order to be able to purchase a new sign in the near future.

11.25.08 – DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – all taking place at Masonic Hall

a) Town Council Meeting – Thursday 20th November 2025

b) Finance Meeting – 7th May 2026

Meeting closed: 20.50

.....signedDate