

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

In attendance:

|                         |                               |              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Jenkins (Chairman) | Cllr Hinderwell               | Cllr Webster |
| Paula Mendham (RFO)     | Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk) |              |

26/18 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Akker.

26/19 To record declarations of interests

Members are invited to declare any relevant interests. Notwithstanding this item, Members may subsequently declare an interest at any point during the meeting.

None declared.

26/20 Public session (15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker)

Priority will be given to those members of the public wishing to share information relating to items on the agenda. Once the public session is closed, members of the public are not permitted to speak.

No representations.

26/21 To confirm minutes of the Finance & Strategy meeting of 20th January 2026

The minutes from the Finance & Strategy meeting of 20th January 2026 were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

26/22 To confirm minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting of 3rd February 2026

The minutes from the Finance & Strategy meeting of 3rd February 2026 were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Jenkins. Cllr Webster Abstained. All in favour.

26/23 To decide on the closure of all Barclays accounts and the transfer of funds to a higher interest account with part going to our Unity current account- proposal to be put to full Council at the next meeting

***It was resolved*** unanimously to decide on the closure of the Barclays accounts and to transfer funds as detailed below: -

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| £68,000  | Unity current account         |
| £25,000  | Unity instant access account  |
| £100,000 | Redwood 35-day access account |
| £107,000 | HTB 95-day access account     |
| £200,000 | NS&I 12-month bond            |

Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

26/24 To review all outstanding debtors and to decide what action to be taken

All outstanding debtors were reviewed.

26/25 To review current ordering system with the aim of paying all our creditors in this financial year

The current ordering system was reviewed.

26/26 To establish a running record of all approved purchases of goods and services not already covered by the three agenda items above

The established running record of all approved purchases of goods and services was reviewed.

26/27 To approve the proposal from the Personnel Committee to fund the back payments of employer's pension contributions in respect of a member of staff

This item was discussed and will be added to the next Council meeting for approval.

26/28 To review and note the Internal Audit Report of 26th January 2026

The Internal Audit Report of 26th January 2026 was reviewed.

26/29 To review our Investment Policy and recommend to full Council

The Investment Policy was reviewed and will be recommended to full Council for approval.  
Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

26/30 To review the running budget report

The running budget was reviewed.

26/31 To review our Financial Regulations and recommend to full Council

The Financial Regulations were reviewed and will be recommended to full Council for approval.  
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

Meeting closed at 12.25pm.