

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2026

In attendance:

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

26/32 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

No apologies received.

26/33 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 received.

26/34 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 public in attendance.

26/35 To confirm minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting of 16th February 2026

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of 16th February 2026.

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

26/36 To review the Budget Comparison Report y/e 31st March 2026

The Budget Comparison Report y/e 31st March 2026 was reviewed.

26/37 RFO to provide an update on the closure of Barclays accounts and the opening of NS&I account

An update was provided on the closing of the Barclays accounts, and the opening of NS&I account.

26/38 To review all cash balances and allocate funds to appropriate savings accounts

Cash balances were reviewed and funds allocated to the following savings accounts: -

- £200,000 to NS&I – 12-month Bond
- £100,000 to Hampshire Trust Bank – 95-day account
- £100,000 to Redwood Bank- 35-day account
- £100,000 to Unity Instant Access account
- £45,000 to Unity Current account

The amount in the Unity Instant Access account will fluctuate as it's the "feeder" account for transfers to Unity current account.

The amount in the Unity Current account to be maintained at a level to accommodate monthly expenditure.

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

26/39 To agree the procedure for maintaining Unity current account at adequate level whilst maximising Interest in savings accounts

It was agreed that the procedure for maintaining Unity current account at adequate level would be delegated to our RFO who will set up the necessary transfers from the Unity Instant Access account to the Unity current account as needed.

26/40 To review all debtors

All debtors were reviewed.

26/41 To review any outstanding orders and commitments

All outstanding orders and commitments were reviewed as recorded in the Aged Creditors report and Task Tracker.

26/42 To review and agree any actions in respect of internal auditor's report –

- a. Risk Assessment – all recommendations were reviewed and any necessary actions are in hand.
- b. Internal Control Policy
It was resolved unanimously to agree the revised draft with the amendments, which is to be circulated to all committee members and submitted to full Council for approval.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.
- c. Strategic Aims Policy – it was agreed that committee members would review the current policy document and bring their ideas to the next Finance and Strategy meeting.
- d. Bank Reconciliations to be signed and checked by a Councillor who is not a Chair or Bank signatory – this was agreed as part of the revised Internal Control document.

26/43 To approve an amendment to the Delegated Powers Policy document with the final version to be presented at the Annual Meeting

It was resolved unanimously to approve the amendments to the Delegated Powers Policy with the final version to be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

Meeting closed at 3.54pm.