FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 7:30pm (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllrs Anstey, Brown, Hinton (Chair), Howard, Johnston, Lewendon, Millar, Paton, Shering, White and Wilson.
In attendance: Martine Coatham, Finance Officer
Cllr Phil Woods, NDFC

1. **To receive any apologies for absence:** Apologies received from Cllr Balthazar

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Paton declared an interest in both CIL applications and Cllrs Hinton, Howard, Millar, Shering and Wilson declared an interest in the Green Gram grant application. None of the noted members would take part in the discussion and voting for the relevant applications.

3. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2026 and report any matters arising**

Cllrs **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th September 2026 be signed as a true record. All those that attended in favour.

Matters Arising from July meeting:
Pending:Speed Indicator Devices (confirm locations), land ownership at town hall, CIL application and fire beaters (review for 2027).

Matters Arising from August meeting:
Agenda point 12: Body Worn Cameras – still under review with Clerk to action.

Matters Arising from September meeting:
Item 9: Budget Setting – RFO to confirm date to meet with Chairs
Item 10: Cemetery Shelter – due to be installed shortly/position TBA
Item 13: Tree works – Treemenders instructed to do works, date to be confirmed.

4. **To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public:** None raised.

5. **To receive details of Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts**

The monthly reports for October had been circulated by the RFO prior to the meeting – no items of concern. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of accounts and that the amounts collected are correct. All in favour.

6. **To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL**

A working party had met before the meeting to review the CIL applications against the criteria as set out in the CIL policy. Discussion took place about the process and the scoring sheet used.

- Avon Valley Churches (CIL)

Members considered the application and recommendation from the working party. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to accept the recommendation of the working party based on the CIL policy criteria and not award a CIL grant to the proposed project. All those able to vote in favour. It was noted that feedback should be provided and a copy of the policy re-sent to the applicant.

- Fordingbridge Bowling Club (CIL)

Members considered the application and recommendation from the working party. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to accept the recommendation of the working party based on the CIL policy criteria and not award a CIL grant to the proposed project. All those able to vote in favour. It was noted that feedback should be provided and a copy of the policy re-sent to the applicant.
It was noted that applications for CIL could be re-submitted for future consideration.

- The Green Gram Community Refill Shop (S137)

Members considered the application. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to approve a S137 grant of £425. All in favour.

- NLCC The Branch (S137)

Members considered the application. It was agreed that further clarification be sought regarding the numbers attending each course and whether the application could be funded on a course-by-course basis (rather than the full amount up-front). This application would be re-considered at General Council.

7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees: none received

8. To receive an update on building matters -

- **Area behind the Co-op:** feedback has been provided to 3 Counties who are currently reviewing the suggestions and will re-price the works and update drawings.
- **To receive on update on the Town Hall works:** awaiting planning response.
- **Workshop:** tender brief completed and review/refining currently taking place.
- **Replacement sports buildings:** Initial drawings have been received from Barclay Phillips, the working party to review and feedback to F&P. Barclay Phillips had noted that the building would likely cost between £1.5 and £2 million, based on currently build costs.

9. To review CIL Spending and Allocations

Discussion took place about the current allocations and whether these were still viable projects. It was agreed that members review the allocations and a discussion would take place prior to F&P in November – any changes would then be approved during the meeting.

10. To receive an update on the Christmas Lights switch on

Sparkx will be installing the overhead lights week commencing 10th November. The small and large Christmas trees are in hand: discussion took place whether the Council should fully fund all the small trees for the town. The stalls and plans for the evening are underway.

11. To review the following policies and registers: none this month

12. To note any items of Correspondence: - none received

13. To receive a report from the Clerk (RFO) and any other relevant business: none raised

14. To note the date of the next meeting as 25th November 2026

The meeting ended at 8.22pm

DRAFT