



FILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance & Scrutiny Committee** held at 7:00PM on Tuesday, 13th January 2026 –
Held at: Filton Town Council Conference Room, Elm Park Leisure Centre, Filton, Elm Park, BS34
7PS

PRESENT: Cllrs: D. Harris (*Chair*), T Mewies (*Mayor*), E.Adjeivi, D. Boardman, A.Doyle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Simon Davies (*Town Clerk*), Robert Hutton (*Deputy Clerk*), B. Mead (*Deputy Mayor*)

APOLOGIES: J. Baverstock (*Vice Chair*), A. Bird

NON-ATTENDANCE: S. Milestone

MEETING STARTED AT 7:05PM

01. EVACUATION PROCEDURES – Noted.

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Noted: Cllrs Baverstock & Bird.

03. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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| i. | To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda. | None. |
| ii. | To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). | None. |
| ii. | To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. | None. |

04. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: No items were declared for exclusion to the press and public, press were in attendance.

05. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2025:

RESOLVED: Minor amendments were made. Following this, the minutes were approved as an accurate record.

06. MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY THE AGENDA

NOTED: No matters arising from the previous Minutes.

07. ACCOUNTS: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE TO NOVEMBER 2025

Councillors discussed the variances in figures and clarified finance headings, of which the Town Clerk advised the headings would be changing in the new financial year.

Cllr Doyle queried costs for playing fields and capital projects. The Town Clerk advised that this was due to equipment including tractor and the costs associated with the leisure centre due to the loan payments inherited from the previous operator.

RESOLVED: Committee members voted to approve the Income and Expenditure from No 2025 as presented.

08. ACCOUNTS: BANK RECONCILE TO NOVEMBER 2025

The Town Clerk presented the bank accounts to reconcile from November, breaking down the LOBTA payment and VAT.

RESOLVED: Councillors voted to approve and reconcile all payments and account figures stated from November 2025 as presented on both account reports.

09. ACCOUNTS: PAYMENTS

The Town Clerk presented payments from November 2025.

Cllr Boardman questioned why the council is hiring fence rather than purchasing. The Town Clerk advised that this has now been stopped.

RESOLVED: Councillors voted to approve and reconcile all payments from November 2025.

10. TENDER UPDATE

NOTED: The Town Clerk provided an update on the ongoing tender process for the Long-Term Leisure Centre Operator contract. Members were informed that the legal advice had been returned and will be brought to Finance & Scrutiny next month to discuss the contract/agency agreement options.

11. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2026-2027

NOTED: No update as not yet provided by South Gloucestershire, hoping to receive for Full Council.

12. SPECIAL EXPENSES RATE 2026-2027

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk explained that special rates are given for areas maintained by the unitary authority and makes up part of the council tax. Not sustainable, but still needed and these areas will eventually be devolved to Filton Town Council. The Town Clerk therefore suggested that this is absorbed through Filton Town Councils own budget, giving the council greater leverage if there are shortfalls in this area, prior to transfer to Filton Town Council. Councillors voted to approve.

13. PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD BORROWING 2026-2027

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk recommended to the committee to agree 'in principle' to borrowing for 2026 to 2027 financial year from the 'Public Works Loan Board' (PWLb) of up to £500,000 towards the 'Conygre Project' (working title), and up to £300,000 towards the refresh of the Skateboard Park; with an estimated repayment of £48,000 per year (for 20 years each loan). The Town Clerk recommend to Full Council that the Finance and Scrutiny Committee manage the application during the next financial year, with a view to making a final recommendation to Full Council for the formal application and repayment amounts (as required by Standing Orders, and various financial regulations and legislation); with the delegated power to manage the drawdown and issuing of borrowed funds once a successful application has been made. The councillors discussed duration of repayment of the loan and to consider the life expectancy of the proposed facilities. Councillors voted to approve.

14. BUDGET 2026-2027

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk presented the budget for the 2026 – 2027 financial year. Following this, the Deputy Clerk presented a timeline of events for the key referenced projects. Councillors voted to approve.

15. PRECEPT 2026-2027

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk presented the proposed precept increase of 3% to the precept, costing £1,041,600 (one million, forty one thousand and six hundred pounds) but

providing a saving to the tax payer when considering the absorption of special expenses. The councillors voted to approve.

16. LEISURE OPERATOR BASE TRADING ACCOUNT (LOBTA)

NOTED: The Town Clerk explained the rebate of £18,732.19 from October 2025 and £14,345.30 from November 2025 that is expected to be less leading up to Christmas and will increase again in the new year. Councillor Boardman enquired as to the process of raising any issues regarding the centre, the Town Clerk advised that the Deputy Clerk is currently the liaison for Elm Park Leisure.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - NOTED: Tuesday, 10th February 2026 at 7PM.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:27pm