

Dinnington St John's Town Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 21st July 2026 at 3:30pm in The Committee Room, Council Offices

Present: Cllr D Smith (Chair), Cllr D Booth, Cllr J Hart, Cllr N Ruff

Apologies: Cllr D Scriven

Absent: None

In attendance: A Wright (Clerk & RFO), C Radford (Town Council Assistant Clerk)

F15/27 **Members are asked to allow for questions from electors of Dinnington to ask one question only in respect of business itemised on the agenda or on a pertinent issue that may arise; followed by the formal meeting.**

No questions asked during the public session.

F16/27 **Members are asked to receive and consider any reasons for absence.**

Resolved: That the Council received and accepted reasons for absence from Cllr D Scriven.

F17/27 **Members are asked to receive and record any declarations of interest and if necessary, to receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**

Cllr Ruff asked whether an interest of his would need to be declared. Members advised that as this was not a pecuniary interest this would not be necessary.

F18/27 **Members are asked to identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature to be discussed. Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2)).**

No items were considered for the exclusion of the press and public.

F19/27 **Members are to receive and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2026.**

Resolved: Councillors approved the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2026 as a true record to be signed by the Chair and kept on file.

F20/27 **Members are asked to consider financial implications of the Council's strategic vision and main objectives alongside the resources available to meet the Council's objectives in terms of land, finance, and manpower.**

Members discussed the need to create a vision for the council that can balance against available funds. An overall objective needs to be created, with building blocks in place to get to the desired outcome and prioritise what needs to be done in order to achieve this. Input from members of the public as well as fellow councillors should be encouraged and a vision set for 12 months, 3 years and 5 years agreed upon and driven by members of the Finance Committee. It was suggested that a full cash analysis be carried out to support a 12 month, 3 year and 5 year vision. The council does have CIL money available to access for any large scale project such as the installation of solar panels at the Lyric.

15.56pm – Cllr N Ruff left the meeting.

It was also discussed that the planned re decoration of the Lyric will be a large project.

15.59pm – Cllr N Ruff rejoined the meeting.

It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Finance Committee should have a joint meeting in order to put forward ideas and ways to move forward on agreed projects.

Chairman Signature:

KPI targets for projects would also ensure that results and timescales are met with reflection to take place on what did / didn't work or was achieved so that lessons can be learned for future projects.

The Clerk is to ensure that all Councillors are reminded to come to the scheduled project discussion meeting on 16th September with ideas and suggestions that the council can consider.

- F21/27** **Members are asked to consider any financial training required for both Councillors and staff and consider any further action:**
How to complete and manage Financial Risk Assessments - 25/08/2026 10:00 am - 11:00 am £28.20 via Zoom
When to go to Tender and navigating the Find a Tender process: 26/08/2026 10:00 am - 12:00 pm £37.60 via Zoom.

Members discussed if these type of courses do add value for members and are relevant. The Clerk reminded members that she and the Assistant Clerk will undertake the FILCA training course during the Summer. Members suggest that the Clerk recommends some tailored training for councillors on the completion of this when she can identify what training could be of benefit.

- F22/27** **Members are asked to receive an update on the preparation of the end of year accounts and the work of the internal auditor.**

The Clerk informed Members that the year end accounts are now ready for approval at this week's extraordinary meeting along with the internal auditors report.

- F23/27** **Members are asked to review the Council's financial policies, procedures and internal controls**
Current Policies: Financial Regs, Community Grant Awarding Policy, Expenses Policy, Investment Policy, Reserves Policy

Members discussed the presented policies and any raised queries. The Clerk confirmed that once accepted the Investment Policy will be adopted with the relevant figures quoted within.

Resolved: Members received and noted the Financial Regs adopted by full council 11th May 2026. Members then approved the following policies: Community Grant Awarding Policy, Expenses Policy, Investment Policy and Reserves Policy.

- F24/27** **Members are asked to consider a programme for reviewing the Council's assets, asset register, records and archives.**

Members discussed the received Asset register and identified several issues with it in its current presented form. It was agreed with the Clerk that this requires a significant amount of time to look through and check that the values of land, property and assets are accurate and then presented in a format that is more user friendly..

- F25/27** **Members are asked to consider the replacement of machinery for grounds maintenance.**

The Clerk updated members that she has asked the Works and Cemetery Team Supervisor to identify and produce a document to show what machinery is in need of replacement and why, if this needs to be like for like and to provide costings for this. The committee are mindful that this should be only a case of replacing essential items and not looking to purchase non essential equipment.

It is thought that a meeting for the Finance Committee with the Allotments and Cemetery Committee could be useful and with the Works and Cemetery Supervisor also there in order to answer any queries.

- F26/27** **Members are asked to discuss and note any matters for inclusion on the next meeting.**
As discussed.

- F27/27** **To arrange the next meeting of the Finance Committee.**

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 22nd September at 3.30pm

The meeting closed at 16.54pm

Chairman Signature: