



Council Committee Minutes
Minutes of the meeting of Langport Town Council's
Finance & Personnel Committee
held on Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 7.00pm

Present:	
Cllr Dromgoole	Cllr Donald
Cllr Wilson	Cllr Glas
Cllr M Crumb (Chair)	

Also present: Gerard Tucker – Town Clerk, Morag Kelly – Deputy Town Clerk and four members of the public

FP2024/24 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given.
(LGA 1972 s85 (1)) None received, all present.

FP2024/25 Declarations of Interests -

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e). *(NB this does not preclude any later declarations)*. There were no declarations of interest.

FP2024/26 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th September 2024 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41 (1))

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th September 2024 were considered correct and subsequently signed by the Chair.

**FP2024/27 To receive requests for Grant Awards:
Regular Funding of amounts /ess than £1,000** Applications have been received from:

Langport Runners – Portcullis 10k Trail Race – requesting £150. The committee **AGREED** to support this application in full. There was a request within the application to enquire if the use of Ridgway Hall could be permitted without charge. When responding, Langport Runners are to be informed that they need to approach Landmark Langport with this request.

Langport Church Community Trust – Continued support for Langport Food Bank – requesting £1,000. John Ford and Victoria Bolton attended the meeting to speak in support of their application. Councillors considered their request and **AGREED** to offer them £750 in support of the Langport Food Bank.

Youth Theatre – Continued support for Youth Theatre – requesting £1,000. There was no one present to speak in support of this application. A question remained unanswered where it was unknown how many young people from the Langport community engaged with the organisation. With the limitation of a depleted grants pot, the committee **AGREED** to offer the Youth Theatre £250 towards their project costs.

FP2024/28 To receive an update report on the anticipated charges to empty both litter and dog waste bins.

Somerset Council has indicated that from April 2025 town and parish councils will be responsible for the costs associated with emptying bins located on council owned land. This additional cost will have to be met by the council. The revised charge of £6.50 per bin per empty has been received. This only applies to bins on land owned or managed by Langport Town Council.

Bins located on land owned and managed by Langport Town Council

Location	What 3 Words	Type	Responsibility
Eastover Recreation Ground	upholding.magical.stack	Litter	Langport Town Council
Memorial Field – Social Club	kite.consults.towers	Litter	Langport Town Council
Whatley – by River Parrett	orbited.teardrop.forklift	Dog	Langport Town Council
Cocklemoor	every.bearable.curries	Dog	Langport Town Council
Cocklemoor	describe.finest.topics	Dog	Langport Town Council
Cocklemoor	briefers.yummy.gosh	Litter	Langport Town Council
Cocklemoor	increment.amuse.spearing	Dog	Langport Town Council
Cocklemoor	turkeys.verse.firework	Litter	Langport Town Council
Cocklemoor	lecturing.relies.dorm	Dog	Langport Town Council
Cheapside – by Bakery	players.flushed.skippers	Litter	Langport Town Council

A consideration could be to replace the existing smaller dog waste bins with larger dual purpose bins in an attempt to save costs. This will be further explored by the clerk.

FP2024/29 Langport Town Hall - Landmark Langport – funding request. Internal and external lifts. The Clerk wanted both of the items raised formally as there is a demand on limited resources, which it is anticipated could be met through S106 developers contributions. However, there is no guarantee that funds would be forthcoming, so until such time as payment is received, there remains a financial risk to the council. The clerk informed that the internal lift required a loan contribution of £4,800 from existing budgets and that the external lift has already committed approximately £8,000 for reports, architect fees and planning application costs. The committee understood the risk and encouraged the Town Clerk to continue, in the knowledge that S106 funds should cover the costs retrospectively.

FP2024/30 Lengthsman The idea of employing a part-time lengthsman to undertake many of the small, yet important tasks around the town has been previously discussed. Various jobs have been currently undertaken by the clerk or volunteer councillors, which is unsustainable in the long-term. Councillors agreed that the employment of a permanent employee for 16 hours a week should be included in the annual budget.

FP2-24/31 To inform of the changes in staff salaries The salaries of staff has risen by 2.5% backdated to April 1st.

FP2024/32 Budget

The clerk presented a detailed budget to the committee. There are a number of suggested amendments to the previous budget, including the introduction of a part-time employee to undertake various duties and tasks around the town. A small reduction to the grants programme, with the introduction of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) to support regular beneficiaries. The budget presented has no contingency and would require an increase of 8.55% on the annual precept, taking the amount generated to £124,620. The predicted total budget for the next year is predicted to be £144,440. Cllr Dromgoole requested that an amount of £2,500 is included in the budget to support the Memorial Field, which could be delivered through a Service Level Agreement. The committee also asked that an additional amount be found for the grants programme. The clerk explained the restrictions of the 'Free Resource' and was asked to seek clarification from SALC on the use of SLA's to administer funding. Cllr Dromgoole proposed that the draft budget be approved, seconded by Cllr Crumb and unanimously **AGREED**.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed