

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY 13th January, 2026 at 6.30pm** at the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, DRAKE ROAD, TAVISTOCK**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Johnson **Chairman & Deputy Mayor (ex-officio)**
Councillor J Moody **Vice Chairman**

Councillor S Hipsey **Mayor (ex-officio)**
Councillor P Ward **Immediate past Mayor (ex-officio)**

Councillor B Smith.

Ward Member(s): Councillor A Hutton.

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager, Office and Finance Manager, Administration and Democratic Support Officer.

290. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Ms M Ewings.

291.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 2nd December, 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

292.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

293. BUDGET PREPARATION & PRECEPT SETTING 2026-2027

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk in connection with the above (Appendix 2) which had been prepared in line with the previous directions of the Committee and Council.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made, in particular, to the challenges posed by revenue and capital costs - most particularly those associated with taking on the Guildhall Public Conveniences which comprised the majority of the Precept uplift. It was noted that the decision to take on responsibility for these premises had followed notification of intended closure by the Borough previously and a subsequent Town Council resident survey which identified the Guildhall

facility as priority for transfer and retention by the community. The importance of setting aside adequate funds to protect and maintain important heritage buildings in the Town Centre through the Rolling Capital Programme was acknowledged, including the allocation of funds toward the Abbey Remains Project and match funding for play equipment in the Meadows.

A press release regarding the taking on of the public conveniences in Guildhall Square would be issued when details had been finalised.

RECOMMENDED THAT: Tavistock Town Council adopt the Budget and Precept 2026-27 as set out, incorporating the schedule of fees and charges previously circulated and agreed.

294. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) – ASSERTION 10

The Committee received and considered the report of the Office and Finance Manager in connection with work consequential upon new requirements attaching to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025-26 and beyond (Appendix 3).

RECOMMENDED THAT Tavistock Town Council approve;

- a) the preparatory work as necessary to secure compliance with the requirements of the new Assertion 10 as listed above and, in particular, endorse use of the NALC Template Information Technology (IT) Policy for the Council at this time,
- b) A further report being brought before the next round of meetings, including a Draft IT Policy for consideration, in order that the Council may determine final arrangements.

Noted That: it was agreed a proportionate approach be applied to the population of the discretionary/choice elements of the IT Polic

295. INTERNAL AUDIT/AUDITOR

The Committee received and considered the Report of the Town Clerk in connection with obligations arising in connection with the requirements of the Practitioners Guide and related matters (Appendix 5).

RECOMMENDED THAT

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

296. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN DEVON

There was no significant new information arising in connection with the Devon wide submissions for the reorganisation of Local Government in Devon, which were presently under consideration by Government. A

preliminary meeting had been held with West Devon Borough Council with a view to seeking agreement to protect critical transport, cultural and leisure/recreation infrastructure in the Town that had been identified by the Town Council. A further report would be made when a response to the points raised had been received.

297. TAVISTOCK HERITAGE ALLIANCE

The Committee considered and noted the Notes of the Meeting of the Tavistock Heritage Alliance (Appendix 6) held on 5th November, 2025

298. URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

No matters were brought forward at this time.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

299. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was:-

RESOLVED THAT the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

300. ASSETS/PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

(**CONFIDENTIAL** - by virtue of relating to matters of a legal, financial, staffing or contractual nature and/or affecting persons other than the Council).

The Committee considered an oral update from the General Manager in connection with the above with particular regard to timing of the transfer, one outstanding point requiring clarification from the other party and prospective future operating arrangements. The Borough Council had indicated it was committed to retaining and operating the other sets of public conveniences open in the Town for the next financial year.

The General Manager was thanked for his diligence in progressing the matter toward conclusion.

The Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed:

Dated:

CHAIRMAN