

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY 14th April, 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)**
Councillors Ms M Ewings, B Smith

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager, Administrative Democratic Support Officer

366. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor P Ward.

367. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Monday 16th March, 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

368. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Moody declared an interest in connection with Minute No 375 by virtue of involvement as a fundraiser for Tavistock Museum.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

369. EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 2025

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk in connection with the above (Appendix 2) with particular reference to those aspects of anticipated greatest impact. It was noted that adherence to 'The Green Book' would afford some support in respect of introduction/alignment.

RECOMMENDED THAT Tavistock Town Council:

- a) note the position as set out and accompanying policy changes required; and
- b) endorse:
 - i) the provision of specific training as necessary (eg Sexual Harassment Duty);
 - ii) the re-issue of an amended Staff Handbook and recirculation to/confirmation by staff, once the new policy arrangements were substantially completed.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

370. UPDATES

The Committee received oral updates in connection with:

- a) UK Town of Culture Bid (which had been submitted – it being understood more than 230 expressions of interest had been registered);
- b) Local Government Reorganisation in Devon (the matter was now with Government, a brief overview of developments to date, anticipated next steps and related matters was provided by a Member);
- c) Renters Rights Act 2025 (a report would be brought to the next meeting, preliminary steps already in hand were outlined)
- d) Tavistock Business Improvement District – Survey (reference was made to take up and accessibility).

URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

371. TOWN TWINNING

In view of the timeline for the initiative the Chairman agreed to take the following item as a matter of urgency.

It was reported a request had been received from the Twinning Association to draw down the agreed Budget allocation (£250) made by the Council in order to support anticipated visits from Pontivy (22-25 May), and Celle (date to be arranged).

In the ensuing discussion reference was variously made to the past and current operation of town twinning, associated funding, year-end financial protocols, and the facility for the Council to review the budget heads each year at the time of budget setting.

RECOMMENDED THAT the allocated budget be awarded to the Twinning Association to support the 2026 visit schedule.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

372. 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

373. WORKS DEPARTMENT/ SUPPORT SERVICES

(**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 the report of the General Manager in connection with the above (Appendix 3) regarding the formalisation of current temporary arrangements, together with an oral update on past and current positions.

RECOMMENDED THAT

- a) the report be received and the actions outlined therein noted;
- b) the options as set out in para 3.1 of the report be adopted.

374. PROPERTY MATTERS – LAND AT SANDY PARK

(**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 the report of the Town Clerk in connection with the above (Appendix 4).

RECOMMENDED THAT the option as set out in para 3.1 of the Report be adopted.

Noted That: in view of the process attaching to the matter it was further reported that preparatory arrangements would be put in hand over the course of the next week.

375. PROPERTY MATTERS – TAVISTOCK MUSEUM

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

RECOMMENDED THAT in the circumstances, and as a good will gesture, the Town Council offer to pay £950 (2/3) of the additional cost and that Tavistock Museum be invited meet the balance (£450) in order that the matter could proceed to resolution.

Noted That: Councillor J Moody declared an interest in the above item by virtue of providing fundraising support to the organisation concerned and left the room during consideration thereof.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

376. INSURANCE MATTERS – OUTCOME OF COMPLAINT

(**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 and noted the report of the Town Clerk in connection with the above (Appendix 5). The mitigation and remedial arrangements introduced by the insurer and broker in the circumstances were welcomed.

The Press and Public were readmitted to the Meeting.

At the close of the Meeting General Manager expressed appreciation to Council staff who had participated in, and contributed to, recent support of the Dartmoor Marathon.

The Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed:

Dated:

CHAIRMAN