

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee held in the Committee Room
Community Centre, Eskdale Road on Tuesday 2nd December 2025**

PRESENT: Councillors S Kirve (Chair), B Ezra, and A Lennard.
Clerk: Tony Skeggs Assistant Clerk: Absent

F25/28	APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Shrivastava and Wood.	
F25/29	DECLARATION OF INTEREST – There were no new declarations of interest.	
F25/30	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 2 nd September 2025 were AGREED as a true and accurate record. b) The Action List was reviewed and updated.	
F25/31	2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET Cllr Kirve presented the draft 2026/27 budget to the committee and highlighted that the budget for legal fees had been increased to £40,000 and that a new Specialist fees budget of £15,000 had been included. The following draft budgets were then amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4233 - Solar Panels – Increased from £0 to £5,000. • 4241 – Playing Field Grass Cutting – Reduced from £10,000 to £8,000. • 4242 – Devolved Services - Reduced from £10,000 to £8,000. • 4282 – Playing Field Footpath – Reduced from £10,000 to £0. • 4200 – Allotments – Increased from £1,500 to £2,000. • 4250 – Parish Improvement Plan – Reduced from £10,000 to £5,000. • 4280 – Playground Maintenance – Reduced from £2,000 to £1,000. The result of the changes would produce a deficit budget of £50,000, which would be met from reserves. The meeting then considered the level of the precept for 2026/27. It was proposed by Cllr Kirve, seconded by Cllr Ezra, that the meeting should recommend to Full Council that the precept be increased by 2%. This would produce a precept of £214,350 and a Band D tax of £72.91. An increase of £1.43. This was AGREED .	
F25/32	POLICIES The following policies were reviewed: a) Equality and Diversity – The policy was adopted with no amendments made. b) Safeguarding - The policy was adopted with no amendments made. c) Social media - The policy was adopted with no amendments made. d) Biodiversity – The Clerk introduced the biodiversity policy which was now a requirement for all Councils. The policy was adopted with no amendments made. The policy included an action plan for consideration by the Committee. It was AGREED that the action plan should be considered by the Full Council.	
F25/33	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting would be on Tuesday 10 th February 2026.	
	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC – Confidential Item To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.	
F25/34	STAFFING The Clerk left the meeting for this item.	



	<p>The Chair reported that MKBALC had evaluated the requirements of the Clerk's role and this was considered by the meeting. It was AGREED that the response from MKBALC and the proposal by the Committee would be recommended to Full Council.</p> <p>The Clerk then rejoined the meeting.</p>	
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The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____ 2026

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
13/02/24	24/04	Investigate Change of Internal Auditor. Contact neighbouring Councils.	Clerk	Outstanding
11/04/24	24/18	Online Information Security Training Courses.	G Shrivastava	Outstanding