ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN ALSAGER CIVIC

ON WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY 2026

Present:
Councillor C Venables (Chair)
Councillor W Whittaker-Large (Vice Chair)
Councillor R Fletcher
Councillor P Hubbard
Councillor R McCarthy
Councillor S Ovenden
Councillor P Williams

C A Bagnall (Deputy Town Clerk)

0 Members of the Press
0 Members of the Public

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FG26/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Hearne.

FG26/02 Non Attendance

The following Members did not attend and did not give their apologies:- Councillor M Unett.

FG26/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor R Fletcher declared his interest as a member of Cheshire East Council and Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee at Cheshire East.

FG26/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting dated Wednesday, 6 May 2026 were referred to and it was: -

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee dated Wednesday, 6 May 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

FG26/05 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

FG26/06 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

FG26/07 Payments for Authorisation

The Chair introduced the item and referred to payments and receipts as scheduled on the agenda, an explanation was given to the Prism IT hardware payment and the precept receipt from Cheshire East Council.

Resolved:

a) To note the approved payments to the value of £256,851.44 for April to June 2026.

b) To note the receipts totalling £423,787.48 for April to June 2026.

FG26/08 Bank Reconciliations

The bank reconciliations were reported for Quarter 1 2026 and an explanation provided of drawdowns and interest from the CCLA account.

Resolved:

a) That, Cashbook 1 was reconciled at £55,564.19.

b) That, Cashbook 5 was reconciled at £200.00.

c) That, Cashbook 7 was reconciled at £1,500.00.

d) That, Cashbook 8 was reconciled at £709,348.60.

FG26/09 Budget Monitoring Statement

The Chair made reference to the most recent Budget Monitoring Statement for Quarter 1 2026 and explained the levels of general reserves, capital reserves and ear marked reserves. The Chair answered questions from members and gave more detail in relation to variances, repairs to allotment fencing, income from Alsager Civic and the Banking Hub and steps taken to reduce the deficit at Alsager Civic. The Chair also referred to the Civic Development Working Group who were addressing the deficit at Alsager Civic.

The Chair agreed to provide members with an explanation of the Supplies and Services budget and predicted outturn.

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Resolved: That, the budget monitoring statement for Quarter 1, FY2026 2027 be received.

FG26/10 Finance Member Internal Audit Checks

The Chair noted he had attended the offices and carried out Quarter 1 members checks.

Resolved: That, the Chair had carried out audit checks on payments, receipts and payroll for Quarter 1.

FG26/11 Risk Assessment

The Chair updated members regarding the possibility of the allotments no longer being managed by Alsager Gardens Association and Town Council staffing capacity issues were raised in relation to any new projects. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that the recent staffing structure review identified that the staffing structure was fit for purpose based on what the Council currently delivers. The Corporate Strategy was referred to as the direction of the Council. Members made a number of amendments to the Risk Assessment.

Resolved:

a) That, the Draft Risk Assessment with amendments be recommended to Full Council for approval.

b) To recommend to Full Council to carefully consider staff capacity and resources before any new projects are undertaken.

FG26/12 Petty Cash Discrepancy

The Chair referred to the report and explained that £29.75 was missing from the Civic petty cash over a very busy weekend. Members discussed other ways to make purchases in a emergency.

Resolved:

a) That, £29.75 be recommended to Full Council to be written off.

b) That, the removal of petty cash in its entirety be investigated.

FG26/13 Exclusions of Public and Press

At the invitation of the Chair it was: -

Resolved: That, in accordance with the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960 as amended the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information, including staffing and salary issues.

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FG26/14 Aged Debtor report

Resolved: That, the aged debt report as at 30 June 2026 be received.

The meeting commenced at 3:15 p.m. and concluded at 4:36 p.m.

Signed by Councillor Venables
Chair

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