



Victoria Hall Liverpool Road Kidsgrove Staffordshire ST7 4EL
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KIDSGROVE TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th November 2025

Meeting started: 7.00pm Concluded: 8.05pm

Present: Cllr Paul Waring (chair), Cllr Mary Maxfield and Cllr Sarah Pickup

Officer present – N Antoney Town Clerk

S Woodward Assistant Clerk

Also present was County Cllr Toney Screen

FGP/25-26/04/01 Apologies

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies from:

Cllr Jonathan Gullis (personal)

Cllr Kevin Johnson (health)

Cllr Cressida Dickens (personal)

FGP/25-26/04/02 Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests

None were declared

FGP/25-26/04/03 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd September 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the previous minutes as a true and accurate record.

FGP/25-26/04/04 Public Participation

None present

FGP/25-26/04/05 Budget 2026 - 2027

Members considered the draft Budget for 2026 – 2027 including the three-year budget. Cllr Waring advised that some adjustments were made so that we would not need to increase the budget. The Clerk advised that all committee members had met to discuss their budgets and had submitted them.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Budget 2026 – 2027 including a three-year budget for recommendation to Full Council.

FGP/25-26/04/06 Financial

Members discussed and approved the following:

- a) The bank reconciliations for Aug, Sept and Oct 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for Aug, Sept and Oct 2025.

- b) Payment List for Sept and October 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the payment list for September and October 2025 and that a 6-month payment list would be required for next Full Council.

- c) To note the budget to date for 2025/26

It was **RESOLVED** to note the budget to date.

- d) To consider the External Audit for 2024 - 2025

The Clerk explained the response from the External Auditor and advised that she had raised a query to the external auditor in response and explained how the Internal Auditor had not answered no to Objective E for the reasons they had given, after they reviewed my query, they agreed, what they did advise is that even though we had ticked no to Assertion 7 we should of ticked no to Assertion 2. They did wholeheartedly apologise for the inaccuracy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the External Auditor response and recommend Full Council to approve.

- e) EMR – Ear Marked Reserves to date

Members discussed the position to date, Cllr Waring advised that adjustment would be required to be made towards the year end due to works being carried out on the Victoria Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Ear Marked Reserves to date.

FGP/25-26/0/07 Interim Internal Audit

The Clerk advised that the report had not been received to date, that if it should be received then it was to be on Full Council agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

FGP/25-26/04/08 Quotes

To consider and approve the following quotes:

a) Kitchen Refurb Update

The clerk advised the current situation. Cllr Waring advised that he had many a discussion with Cllr Maxfield and some further clarification was sought prior to the funds being released.

It was **RESOLVED** that the funds were now to be released.

b) Victoria Hall Floor Update for consideration

Members discussed the current hall situation and discussed the updated from the Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with replacement. The advised that due to the cost we would need to follow the tender process.

c) To consider and approve for recommendation the HR & HS Support Contract.

Members discussed at length the report and contract at hand. The Current contract is in its final year and due to finish in 2026, Members discussed the current contract and the extra cost when dealing with a hr matter. Members discussed the merits of each company and what each of them provided.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint:

- a) Stratergi Solutions Group as our new HR & HS Support Company on a three year contract.
- b) To recommend to Full Council
- c) To delegate to the clerk to progress.

FGP/25-26/04/09 To consider and approve grant applications

There was no grant applications submitted this time.

FGP/25-26/04/10 Exclusion of Press and Public

None

FGP/24-25/04/11. Date of the Next Meeting

To note the date, time and venue of the next meeting scheduled for Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.00pm, Victoria Hall, Liverpool Road, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire, ST7 4EL

Signed

Dated