

Penistone Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Assets & HR Committee held in the Resource Centre, St John's Community Centre on Monday 12 January 2026 at 7.00pm

Present

Cllr. Anita Kimberley (Chair), Cllr. Jonathan Cutts, Cllr. Hannah Kitching (Town Mayor), Cllr. James Kitching, Cllr. Frances Nixon, Cllr. Jon Palmer, Cllr. Nick Perkins, Cllr. David Walker

Nigel Bailey, Town Clerk

Alison Fleetwood – Finance Officer

Elaine Miller – Asst. Town Clerk

Not present

Cllr. Wayne Chadburn, Cllr. Matthew Nicholson

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cllr. Wayne Chadburn, Cllr. Jonathan Cutts, Cllr. Anita Kimberley (Chair), Cllr. Hannah Kitching (Town Mayor – *ex officio*), Cllr. James Kitching, Cllr. Matthew Nicholson, Cllr. Frances Nixon, Cllr. Jon Palmer (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Nick Perkins, Cllr. David Walker

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

FAHR 2025/2026/28 1. TO NOTE ANY APOLOGIES AND APPROVE REASONS FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCILLORS

No apologies were received.

FAHR 2025/2026/29 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS

2.1 In accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 members to declare any disposable pecuniary interests in items on this agenda.

It was **NOTED** and **RECORDED** that there were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2.2 The Town Clerk to report any written dispensations in respect of items on this agenda.

The Town Clerk reported that there were none.

FAHR 2025/2026/30 3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS ACT 1960)

Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

3.1 To consider and resolve to exclude the press and public from Item 5 which refers to confidential information.

It was **NOTED** that no members of the press or public were present.

FAHR 2025/2026/31 4. PENISTONE ALLOTMENTS

4.1 To note the Chair's response to a letter from the Penistone & District Allotment Society dated 23/10/2025. The Chair's letter (dated 15/12/2025) was circulated to the Committee.

The letter was duly **NOTED** by the Committee.

4.2 The Chair to report on her contact with the National Allotment Society.

Cllr. Kimberley reported that she spoke to Mr. Farrell of the National Allotment Society about the Penistone allotment rental charges before writing to the Penistone & District Allotment Society. He did not find anything untoward in the Council's charges and specifically confirmed that the Council has no legal duty to align allotment rental charges with charges imposed by the Council for other services.

4.3 To discuss the allotment rent / administration fee to be introduced from 01/04/2026; and consider whether to recommend any changes to the Council.

Further to discussion the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend at the next full Council meeting that the allotment rent/administration fees to be introduced from 01/04/2026 should proceed as planned. The Chair will write to the Allotment Society again after the next full Council meeting.

FAHR 2025/2026/32 5. ONGOING ASSET TRANSFER (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Town Clerk reported that since the last meeting there has been no contact from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

FAHR 2025/2026/33 6. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET PREPARED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER; TO DISCUSS THE PRECEPT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL AND DECIDE UPON THE SAME SHOULD THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDE THAT THEY HAVE ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION.

The Committee reviewed the draft budget presented by the Finance Officer. The budget was prepared using the Committee's decisions reached at their last meeting on 10 November 2025 (Minute nos. FAHR 2025-2026/25/6).

The FAHR Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend a precept of £267,359 for the financial year 2026/2027. This precept will result in an annual charge to residents of Band D properties of £59.47, being an increase of £5.40 per annum (9.99%).

FAHR 2025/2026/34 7. TO NOTE THE ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER 2025

The Finance Officer presented budget reports for Penistone Town Council, St John's Community Centre and the Paramount Cinema.

The Committee duly **NOTED** the accounts for December 2025.

FAHR/2025/2026/35 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Finance, Assets & HR Committee meeting will be 09 March 2026.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.