

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **FINANCE, STAFFING & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held in the **COUNCIL OFFICES, ESK STREET** on **TUESDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025** at **7PM**

## PRESENT

Councillors Sir JFS Graham (Chair), G Routledge (Vice Chair), C Johanssen, E Jeffrey, M Irving and M Gunson

**ALSO PRESENT** – Parish Clerk and RFO

## APOLOGIES

Councillors R Graham and C Adams

Minute Number	
081/25	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that apologies were received from Councillors R Graham and C Adams</p>
082/25	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b> To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that no declarations were received</p>
083/25	<p><b>Public Participation</b> To receive representation from members of the public on issues relating to items on this agenda. <i>Members of the public are permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes (this is the total time for public participation) and are not permitted to speak at any other time during the meeting unless invited to do so by the Chair</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that no members of the public were present</p>
084/25	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> To receive from Councillors, any financial matters they consider relevant to be included for the 2026 budget</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the town's clock needs looking at and repairing</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to pursue the project of a wildlife area at Lochinvar Fields, which Borderlands were going to help with</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the SIDs still need to be installed on the A7 and A6071 – Cllr Irving to find out projected costs of installation</p>

<p><b>085/25</b></p>	<p><b>Dolly's Brae Play Area</b> To consider and agree as to what is to be carried out at Dolly's Brae</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that a play area should remain, however the wooden trail is to be removed and possibly replaced by robust gym equipment</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the current Under 7's area be upgraded. This will mean brand new equipment and the flooring repaired</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the Clerk and RFO advised that play areas need to be visibly open spaces so that the possibility of vandalism is reduced and also that the children can be seen playing safely</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that a vote was taken as to whether the hedge between the wooden trail and the Under 7's play area be removed or not. The vote was 2 to keep the hedge and 3 to remove it</p>
<p><b>086/25</b></p>	<p><b>Grant</b> To consider giving a grant from the Beckburn Community Pot for Longtown Primary School to improve their Purposeful Play</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that a grant of £500 be awarded</p>
<p><b>087/25</b></p>	<p><b>Job Specifications</b> To review and agree to the Job Specifications for 2 employees</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council no longer want to employ people for the roles and want tenders to be compiled</p>
<p><b>088/25</b></p>	<p><b>Tender Forms</b> To receive and agree to the Tender Forms for 2026 works prior to sending out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flower Beds</li> <li>• Lochinvar Grass Cutting</li> <li>• Grass Cutting – Dolly's Brae, The Scaur &amp; Bobbin Mill</li> <li>• Smaller Area Grass Cutting</li> <li>• Trees</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that all tenders were agreed to with a change to smaller area grass cutting to include the BMX track</p>