K E N I L W O R T H T O W N C O U N C I L

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee

Commencing at 7.00 pm on Thursday 12 February 2026

PRESENT: Councillor A J G Marsh (in the Chair)

Councillors: D A T Bailey (from FGS. 295), A Chalmers, A Dearing (from FGS. 295), K S Dickson, R Dickson, N Eaton, A Insley, A Milton, M Stevens and A Summers.

Town Clerk: Miss M S Field.
Deputy Town Clerk: Miss G Honey

The fire and safety brief was displayed on the screens prior to the commencement of the meeting.

FGS.294 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors K S Dickson, R Dickson and A Milton made a general declaration of personal interest in relation to any items regarding Warwick District Council.

Councillors R Dickson and M Stevens made a general declaration of personal interest in relation to any items regarding Warwickshire County Council.

FGS.295 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs P Jones, J Kennedy, J Payne and A Randall.

Cllr Z Leventhal was absent.

FGS.296 MINUTES

Members NOTED the Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee held on 18 December 2025. These were received and approved by the Town Council (KTC) on 15 January 2026.

FGS. 297 MATTERS ARISING

None.

STANDING MATTERS

FGS.298 REVIEW OF GRANTS AWARDED 2024-2025

Members NOTED the receipt of the following reports of grants awarded during the 2024-2025 financial year:

- Omega
- CELST

INITIALS.....

- Parenting Project
- Kenilworth Lions – Carols
- Kenilworth Lions -Pantomime
- Waverley Day Care Centre

FGS.299 INTERNAL AUDIT – REPORTS AND ACTION

The Chair reported that the auditor had completed his Quarter 3 review on 10 February 2026 with no action required. The report was shared with the Chair and Vice-Chair in line with regulations.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS.300 TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Cllr A Chalmers reported that a visit from Eppstein was planned for May 2026 and a visit from Bourg La Reine in 2027. The Twinning AGM would be taking place on 11 March 2026 when Jeff Williams will be taking over as Chair. All were welcome to attend.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS. 301 UYOGO FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Cllr D Bailey advised that the maternity unit was now in use and had recently had a new incinerator installed. The Group had discussed how to improve relationships between teachers at Kenilworth School and the school in Uyogo. Members welcomed the USU charity week taking place at Kenilworth School this week.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS. 302 CEMETERY REPORT

Cllr A Insley advised all was in order. Some recent pollarding had taken place, and all Christmas wreaths were due to be removed in the coming week.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS. 303 SHOP WINDOW COMPETITIONS

Cllr A Insley suggested shop window competitions be reduced to two per year. For 2026 these would take place during the summer months to coincide with the town theme and at Christmas time. Members were in agreement and discussed methods to encourage a higher number of entrants.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS. 304 REVIEW OF WEBSITE & ONLINE CONNECT PLATFORMS

INITIALS.....

Members NOTED the published report and were pleased to see a continual improvement in the data. Feedback on the weekly Friday highlights/round up was very positive.

FGS. 305 9 MONTH REVIEW OF BUDGET

The Clerk reported that income has already exceeded that expected for interest payments and castle passes. Expenditure was also lower than expected with regards to telephone costs, insurance, website administration, civic tickets and travel and subscriptions. The underspent training budget will be accrued for training costs in the new financial year. Salary expenses were on track, and the only significant uncertainty will relate to grant spending once all applications had been considered.

Members NOTED this update and thanked the Clerk for her report.

FGS. 306 REVIEW OF INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Cllr N Eaton presented the published investment strategy. It was duly proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED to APPROVE the annual review of the Investment Strategy.

NEW MATTERS

FGS.307 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – KENILWORTH CARNIVAL

Members discussed this application in some detail. Having supported the Carnival over recent years in the form of grant funding and guidance, Members remained concerned over the Committee's lack of formal governance, an evaluation process, sparse financial information and the ongoing environmental impact of the event in its current form.

That being said, Members were aware of how valuable the event was to the town and considered Kenilworth very fortunate to still have a carnival, particularly in celebration of its 100th year in 2026.

It was therefore duly proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that the sum of £3100 be granted to KENILWORTH CARNIVAL from the Community Grants Budget for 2026/27. Conditions of the agreement include a full report within one month of the event taking place.

As part of the discussions, Members agreed that if the Carnival Committee are to seek a grant for 2027, then consideration of any application will be strictly dependant on the following conditions being met:

- The Carnival organisation must have gained charitable status

INITIALS.....

- The Carnival must be able to demonstrate that they have a robust plan in place for achieving net zero.
- Distribution of 2026 funds must have taken place by the time of the grant application (with clear evidence of the paper trail)

FGS.308 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – THE PARENTING PROJECT

There was support for the bid. It was duly proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that the sum of £9600 be granted to THE PARENTING PROJECT from the Unspecified Allocation Budget 2025/26. Conditions of the agreement include six monthly reporting.

FGS.309 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – KENILWORTH SCHOOL OF EMBORIDERY

There was support for the bid. It was duly proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that the sum of £800 be granted to KENILWORTH SCHOOL OF EMBORIDERY from the Unspecified Allocation Budget 2025/26. Conditions of the agreement include six monthly reporting.

FGS. 310 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – BEYOND THE BUMP

There was support for the bid. It was duly proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that the sum of £4800 be granted to BEYOND THE BUMP from the Unspecified Allocation Budget 2025/26. Conditions of the agreement include six monthly reporting.

FGS. 311 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – KENILWORTH SHOW

There was support for the bid. It was duly proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that the sum of £650 be granted to the KENILWORTH SHOW from the Community Grant Budget 2026/27. Conditions of the agreement include a full report within one month of the event taking place.

The Clerk advised Members that there was an option to have a stand at the Kenilworth Show and an entry in the Show Guide. Members wished to pursue both options.

FGS. 312 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – MIND MATTERS

Members NOTED that a funding request had been received from the Primary Care Network for project funding for Mind Matters. This was rejected and instead the applicants have been invited to brief Members, at a session in March, along with the two Kenilworth medical centres.

FGS. 313 CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

INITIALS.....

(i) Members CONFIRMED the date for the High Street Lights Switch On as Friday 27 November 2026.
(ii) Members AGREED to hold a market/fayre at Abbey End on Small Business Saturday (5 December 2026).
(iii) Members NOTED that WDC are currently reviewing the Warwick Road arrangements and look forward to an opportunity to be briefed and discuss any ideas being considered.

FGS. 314 CIL APPLICATION – KENILWORTH REVEALED

Cllr K Dickson reminded Members that this item had previously been considered at the last Town Council Meeting. Costings had now been received which came within the budget previously allocated of £3,532.80. It was therefore duly proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED to APPROVE the request to amend part of the Funding previously approved for the Kenilworth Revealed project to include the initiative to mark out the Abbey stones.

FGS. 315 TOWN OF CULTURE 2028

Members discussed the opportunity to enter the UK Town of Culture 2028 Competition. Whilst a healthy debate ensued, ultimately Members felt this was beyond the current resource of this Council, particularly whilst the Town Council were in the midst of developing a strategic approach to projects/resource and staff moving forwards. It was proposed, seconded and, with votes of 7 in favour and 3 against it was:

RESOLVED not to proceed with an entry into the UK Town of Culture Competition 2028.

FGS. 316 2026 TOWN THEME AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Members discussed the options available for a town 'theme' for 2026, something that could be incorporated into the new Mayoral year and any upcoming events and exhibitions. It was noted that the carnival had reached their centenary anniversary and Members felt it was important to shine a spotlight on this and all voluntary organisations who make such a difference in the town. The theme agreed was one to celebrate Community within Kenilworth.

The Clerk advised that initial enquiries had been made to hold a resident's picnic in the summer and officers would explore options for town banners and decorations alongside the Mayor Elect.

FGS.317 NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee will take place on 21 May 2026, at 7pm subject to approval of the calendar for 2026/27.

INITIALS.....

The meeting concluded at 9:03pm.

Signed …….……

Dated.…….…….....

INITIALS.....