

KNOWSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of Knowsley Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee was held on Tuesday 28 October 2025 in the Committee Room, the Community Pavilion, Pool Hey, Stockbridge Village, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors: D J Baum, M Burke, B Donnelly, J Donnelly (Chair), N Joseph (Vice-Chair), L O'Keeffe, L Tomlinson.

Officers: Jane Thomas - Clerk of the Council and Responsible Financial Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: None

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received from members.

99. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

There were no announcements from the Chair of the Committee.

100. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

There were no announcements from the Clerk of the Council.

101. VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT APPLICATION – PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS AT KNOWSLEY VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND

In Attendance:

- Natalie and Robyn, Friends of Knowsley Rec & Green Spaces
- Phil Hurst, Green Space Development Officer, Environmental Sustainability

Phil Hurst, Green Space Development Officer at Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC), attended the meeting to update members on the Veolia Environmental Trust

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funding application and to seek the Town Council's support as leaseholder. He was joined by representatives of the Friends of Knowsley Village Recreation & Green Spaces.

Members were advised that the application deadline is 8 January 2026, with a potential grant of up to £75,000 towards play area improvements at Knowsley Village Recreation Ground. Draft documents were circulated, including a Mini Master Plan, cost estimates, and equipment options. It was noted that a 10% third-party contribution (£7,500) is required to unlock the grant.

Following consideration of the scheme, members and representatives of the Friends of Knowsley Village Recreation & Green Spaces raised several queries:

At the request of the Friends of Knowsley Village Recreation & Green Spaces, clarification was sought on whether maintenance costs are evenly distributed or if the Recreation Ground incurs higher expenses. A further query asked whether decommissioning Mill Lane would generate savings.

Members proposed that the £7,500 third-party contribution be split equally between Knowsley Town Council and KMBC, subject to final approval by Caroline Holmes (KMBC).

Members also requested written assurance from KMBC that the existing annual maintenance contract and costs will remain unchanged following installation.

Following discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED** that the following be submitted to the next Full Council meeting for approval:

- a) Approval of the installation and access improvements in the Draft Mini Master Plan.
- b) Approval of ongoing maintenance and insurance responsibilities.
- c) Agreement to issue a letter of support confirming leaseholder consent and project backing.
- d) Provision of Public Liability Insurance cover for the site.
- e) Agreement in principle to contribute £3,750 towards the third-party contribution, subject to a matching contribution from KMBC.
- f) Agreement in principle to the Draft Design Brief and proposed Timeline/Action Plan.
- g) Request for a maintenance cost breakdown and written confirmation that annual costs will not increase post-installation.

All matters resolved above will be submitted to Full Council for formal ratification.

102. FINANCIAL MATTERS QUARTERLY BUDGET (JULY TO SEPT 2025)

Members reviewed the second quarterly budget report for the period July to September 2025, as presented by the Clerk of the Council. After thorough discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the quarterly budget report for this period be noted.

Full Council meeting for formal ratification.

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL

(Under Section 1.10.1 of the Council’s Standing Orders, it was RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public were temporarily excluded from the meeting for the following items)

103. GRANT APPLICATION

Under its delegated powers, the Finance and General Purposes Committee holds authority to consider all grant applications.

A grant application from Craigzwayz was presented for consideration.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £250 be awarded to Craigzwayz for the 2025/26 municipal year, to support the purchase of food for a Christmas meal benefiting residents of 270 flats within the community.

Cllr Dennis Baum requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he voted against the resolution.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Dated: 28 October 2025

Signed.....

**Cllr J Donnelly
Chair of the Committee**