



## Formal meeting of the Ascension Island Council Finance Committee

16:30 on Tuesday 03 March 2026 at the Court House

### MINUTES

Present: Catherine Jones, Acting Director of Resources

Councillor Thomas Barnes  
Councillor Laura Shearer  
Councillor Alan Nicholls

In attendance: Georgina Wilson, Clerk of Council

Apologies:

#### 1. Welcome

The Acting Director of Resources (Ag DoR) Catherine Jones welcomed all parties and thanked them for their attendance at the formal finance committee meeting.

#### 2. Review of Proposed Capital Funding Bids for 2026-2027

The Ag DoR explained that the first item on the agenda relates to two proposed Ascension Island Government (AIG) capital funded business cases, which have been considered and discussed in detail at a previous formal meeting, but further information was required for councillors to make an informed decision.

##### 2.1 Installation of Two Playground Shelters at Two Boats School

The Ag DoR explained that the first Business Case to be considered is the installation of two playground shelters at Two Boats School, one in the Middle School and one in the Upper School grounds. Councillor Shearer asked if the local skilled labour could be utilised to build a suitable shelter for the students rather than always relying on an imported solution. Councillors also highlighted the excessive cost of freight which accounts for £16,000 of the proposed bids. After discussion, councillors agreed to go for option 2, two pergola structures (same as those recently installed at the NAAFI), at a cost of £25,281.60, which provided a saving of £6,632.64 compared to option 1. The bid included costings for a concrete plinth for the structures with these materials accounting for much of the estimated freight charges.

**The Ag DoR asked each Committee Member in turn if they are happy to take the proposal, for an appropriation of £25,281.60 for capital expenditure to the Development Fund for the installation of two shelters at Two Boats School for the 2026/27 financial year, forward as a recommendation to the Island Council?**

	Proposal	Cllr Thomas Barnes	Cllr Alan Nicholls	Cllr Laura Shearer
1	Installation of two school shelters at a cost of £25,281.60	Yes	Yes	Yes

## 2.2 Replacement Marquee

The Ag DoR explained that Operations and Facilities had updated their preference on the replacement marquee, with the cheaper option 2 being favoured due to better reviews and cost savings. Going with option 2 at a cost of £4,104 (including freight) created a saving of almost £15,000. Councillor Nicholls noted the timeline that the quote was valid for and the Ag DoR agreed that the amount should be increased to £5K to allow for any increase at the time of purchase.

**The Ag DoR asked each Committee Member in turn if they are happy to take the proposal, for an appropriation of £5,000 for capital expenditure to the Development Fund for the replacement marquee for the 2026/27 financial year, forward as a recommendation to the Island Council?**

	Proposal	Cllr Thomas Barnes	Cllr Alan Nicholls	Cllr Laura Shearer
2	Replacement marquee at a cost of £4,104	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Ag DoR noted that now all capital bids had been reviewed, the total capital budget to present to full council for recommendation to the Governor would be around £69,000. The Ag DoR thanked the councillors for considering the bids in detail.

### 3. AOB

1. Councillor Nicholls noted that the budget had been cut for the Post Office, among other departments, however recognised that this team has recently taken on additional responsibility providing support for Ascension Island Mobile (AIM). Ag DoR agreed to look into the proposed cuts to ensure they were fair and manageable. She also noted that any AIM services provided by the Post Office and any other area within AIG would likely be charged back to AIM from the AIG.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 16:45

Georgina Wilson  
Clerk of Council

*I certify that this is a true record of the meeting to which it relates.*



*Catherine Jones*  
*Director of Resources – Chair of the Finance Committee*