

Motion: Temporary Suspension of Non-Essential Expenditure

Proposed by: Cllr. Mathew Hinton

Seconded by: Cllr. Ivan Forcada-Poveda

Date: April 2025

Motion Title:

Temporary Suspension of Non-Business As Usual (BAU) Public Spending Until Recruitment of a Clerk

Background:

In light of:

- Serious and ongoing financial governance concerns within the Council;
- The absence of a qualified and appointed Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO);
- The lack of transparency, appropriate oversight, and clarity regarding current financial decision-making;
- Numerous offers of support by councilors—such as writing minutes, resolving procurement issues (Cllr Hinton), and obtaining quotes for community assets (Cllr Volrath)—being consistently ignored by the Chair;
- Irregular practices regarding the publication of agendas and minutes, including unapproved minutes being released to the public;
- Invoices issued without proper breakdowns or audit trails;

The Council must take urgent steps to restore lawful, ethical, and transparent financial management.

Motion:

That St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council:

1. Pauses all non-Business As Usual (BAU) expenditure with immediate effect, until a qualified and mutually agreed Clerk/RFO is recruited and formally in post.
2. Restricts spending during this period to core, statutory, or community-benefiting functions, including:
 - Maintenance of the village green;
 - Maintenance and upkeep of notice boards;

- Any mandatory administrative expenses required by statute;
- Council-led support for community commemorative events, specifically:
 - VE80 Day – 8th May 2025
 - VJ Day – 15th August 2025

3. Suspends any expenditure on the following projects or initiatives until the Clerk is in post and financial controls are formally re-established:

- War Memorial expenditures and associated invoices;
- Bus shelter works (construction, refurbishment, or new installation);
- Any retaining walls, structural or boundary work;
- Signage of any kind (including village or commemorative signs);
- Public Rights of Way (PROW) projects (including surfacing or enhancement works).

4. Requires that all future expenditure proposals outside BAU be presented with full costings, evidence of quotations, and rationale, for Council review and minuted approval after the Clerk's appointment.

Rationale:

This motion ensures the Council meets its legal and ethical obligations while prioritising trust, transparency, and community benefit. It recognises that public funds must not be spent without due process, clarity, and proper authority, and protects the integrity of the Council until professional support is in place.

Proposer Cllr. Mathew Hinton:



Date: 28 March 2025

Seconder Cllr. Ivan Forcada-Poveda:



Date: 28 March 2025

St Nicholas & Bonvilston Community Council

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