

A meeting of the Finance Working Party was held in the Village Hall, Station Road, Countesthorpe, on Wednesday 11th June 2025

Present: Cllrs M Gillespie, P Mount, K Pearce, W Read and M Smith.

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

Cllr M Smith chaired the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Finance Working Party.

2. Apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllr S Turner.

3. To receive disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. To review the Terms of Reference

This item as deferred until the next meeting of the Finance Working Party. There was discussion as to whether the Finance Working Party documents be made available to all Councillors prior to the meeting to allow more time for them to consider the documents prior to the Parish Council meeting. It was recommended to discuss this further at the Parish Council meeting.

5. To verify accounts for payment

It was recommended to approve the accounts for payment for the Parish Council and the Village Hall.

6. Review budget and expenditure 2024/2025

The budget as at 31st May was received and all was in order.

It was noted that the national pay offer was currently being considered by the Unions who had been issued with a deadline of 23rd June to provide a response. It was noted that it was proposed for the bottom point of the pay scales to be deleted from the 26/27 Financial Year, therefore in due course, it would be forwarded to the HR Committee to consider any action that may be needed in future financial years.

Recommended for approval

Further to the recent Health and Safety Inspection:

. To obtain additional information and costings, if appropriate, for the installation of a smoke alarm in the main hall

. To not proceed with servicing the trolley jack but to purchase a replacement in the future if required, and to implement additional safety measures if and when the existing trolley jack is used

7. Renewal of insurance schedule – Gallaghers

It was noted that, due to a change to the policy, an updated quotation was being produced but had not yet been received. The existing policy had been extended by Gallagher in the meantime.

8. Reinstatement/revaluation cost assessment

It was noted that the order had been placed for the revaluation cost assessment however that the report had not yet been received.

9. Replacement vehicle

Initial costings for the purchase of a vehicle to replace the John Deere mower were presented for consideration and would remain a rolling item for discussion. Lease costings would also be obtained for comparison.

10. Review bank signatories and online banking list

Recommended for approval

To remove outdated bank signatories from the online banking system.

11. Grant aid

i. Countesthorpe Cricket Club

Recommended for approval

To respond to Countesthorpe Cricket Club to advise that Countesthorpe Parish Council would not be offering a grant in response to their most recent request. However, again, that it would be happy to consider either a smaller and more achievable project or to reconsider the current request once other funding had been obtained.

12. S106 payment

There was nothing to report.

13. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

14. Matters arising for information purposes

There was nothing to raise.

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9th July 2025.