

A meeting of the Finance Working Party was held in the Village Hall, Station Road, Countesthorpe, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr M Smith.

1. Election of Chairman

It was resolved to elect Cllr S Turner as Chairman.

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

The terms of reference were reviewed and would be recommended to the Parish Council for adoption.

5. Discuss day/times for Finance meetings

It was resolved to make no recommendation of change to the day and/or time of future meetings of the Finance Working Party.

6. To verify accounts for payment

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

Recommended for approval

*To research the potential of obtaining sponsorship of some of the hanging baskets by local businesses.*

7. Review budget and expenditure 2024/2025

The budget as at 30<sup>th</sup> June was received and all was in order.

Recommended for approval

*To proceed with completing training on devolution and open spaces at a cost of £30.*

*To proceed with submitting a faculty application, at a cost of £285, and a planning application, at a cost of £235, for the relevant repairs to be completed on the pathways in the closed churchyard of St Andrews Church.*

*To obtain a quote for a replacement overhead barrier for Central Street car park due to the existing one being damaged.*

*To proceed with the following recommendations of the Estates Working Party:*

*. To purchase three tonnes of topsoil for The Square at a cost of £261, as well as hiring the relevant equipment at a cost of no more than £200*

*. To purchase replacement ropes for the large basket swing at a cost of £360*

*To refer back to the Estates Working Party, for more information, the recommendation to proceed with undertaking improvement works to the area at the front of the village hall, creating a retaining wall out of slabs. Specifically, to ask that the safety implications of building up the ground level be reviewed. This project and recommendation would also be referred to the Village Hall Management Committee to consider whether any of the grant which was received from the Countesthorpe Village Hall Charity could be used to fund the project.*

*To ask the Estates Working Party to review their projects list and prioritise them based on safety and budget allowances, in light of it currently obtaining quotes for resurfacing the footpaths at The Spinney.*

8. Quarterly Finance Reports as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The quarterly reports were received and would be circulated to all councillors.

9. To verify bank reconciliations against bank statements and payments – for Cllr K McGovern to verify bank reconciliations against bank statements and payments for all accounts

Arrangements would be made for Cllr K McGovern to complete relevant checks of the bank statements and bank reconciliations for the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

10. To verify online bank statements against bank reconciliations – for Cllr C Ibbotson to be appointed to verify the bank statements against bank reconciliations for all accounts

It was noted that Cllr C Ibbotson had verified the bank statements against the bank reconciliations for all accounts.

11. Reinstatement/revaluation cost assessment

It was noted that the revaluation reports for The Square and churchyard walls as well as the village hall, library and office had been received, with a reduction in the reinstatement cost reported. However, the reports for the brick garage and cemetery chapel were still outstanding. Once all reports are received, Gallagher Insurance would be notified of the valuations.

12. Replacement vehicle

It was noted that further costings for the purchase/lease of a vehicle to replace the John Deere mower had been received. Additional information would be sought and brought back to a future meeting of the Finance Working Party, regarding training requirements of any new equipment, the average lifespan of the existing John Deere mower, its average usage over its lifetime and detail of which hedgerows were proposed to be cut using the flail.

13. Grant aid

*Recommended for approval*

*To respond to Countesthorpe Cricket Club to advise that, despite them having obtained funding to cover half the cost of their most recent request, due to the large amount still outstanding, the Parish Council would still not be offering a grant in response.*

14. S106 payment

*Recommended for approval*

*To liaise with the Planning Committee in requesting a meeting with Blaby District Council's Planning Department to discuss the status of housing applications in Countesthorpe, including the status of any developer contributions.*

15. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

16. Matters arising for information purposes

There was nothing to raise.

17. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025.