

A meeting of the Finance Working Party was held in the Village Hall, Station Road, Countesthorpe, on Wednesday 10th September 2025

Present: Cllrs S Turner, M Gillespie, P Mount, K Pearce (from item 4), W Read and M Smith

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

1. Apologies for absence, if any

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. To verify accounts for payment

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

4. Review budget and expenditure 2025/2026

The budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 was received and all was in order.

It was noted that the memorial inspections had now been completed with five memorials identified as having failed the inspection and being in need of remedial works. Quotes would be brought to the Estates Working Party and Finance Working Party for consideration once received.

Recommended for approval

*To proceed with accepting the quote from A R Smith Jewellers for updating the engraving on the Chain of Office at a cost of £530. This was to bring the chain up to date as it had not been updated since 2010.*

*To request an updated quote from RCD Electrical for replacement LED lighting in the garage.*

*To monitor the overhead barrier on Central Street car park and review quotations once a replacement becomes absolutely necessary. In the meantime, additional warning signage indicating the height restriction would be investigated.*

*To proceed with the following projects identified as the highest priority by the Estates Working Party in their recent review of the projects list:*

*. Resurfacing the 55m pathway in The Spinney, with tarmac, at a cost of £7,900, as quoted by E L Midlands Ltd*

*. Tidy and top up the cremation plots in the new cemetery at an anticipated cost of £400*

*. Top up the soil and grass seed on The Square at an anticipated cost of £400*

*To purchase the following items of grounds maintenance equipment:*

*. Orbit sander at a cost of £166.95*

*. Grinder and battery at a cost of £282.41*

*. Trolley jack at a cost of £150*

5. To approve the internal auditor for the interim audit 2025/2026

Recommended for approval

*To accept the quotation of £785 from Ireland & Co to carry out the 6 monthly internal audit for the financial year 2025/26, noting that they had demonstrated independence from the Council's financial decision making or relating or close associates with the Parish Council Manager, Responsible Financial Officer and Councillors.*

6. To agree the Willoughby Road Football Club annual fee with Blaby and Whetstone Football Club  
*Recommended for approval*  
*To proceed with offering Blaby & Whetstone Football Club an annual lease renewal for the use of Willoughby Road Playing Fields at a rate of £625.*
7. Annual review of Investment Policy and update on latest balances  
A summary of the Parish Council's account balances was reviewed.  
*Recommended for approval*  
*For the Investment Policy to be adopted by the Parish Council, with no changes having been recommended.*  
*To proceed with reinvesting a total of £40,000 into a Lloyds 12 Month Fixed Rate Account with an interest rate of 2.24%.*
8. Annual review of contracts list  
*Recommended for approval*  
*For the revised contracts list to be adopted by the Parish Council, following its annual review.*
9. Pension scheme update  
It was noted that an update on the Local Government Pension Scheme had been received from Leicestershire County Council.
10. Practitioners Guide – Year end 2025/2026 changes – Standing item  
There was nothing to report.
11. Asset Disposal Policy  
*Recommended for approval*  
*For the Asset Disposal Policy to be introduced and adopted by the Parish Council.*
12. Replacement of John Deere  
There was further discussion regarding the options for replacing the John Deere mower. It was resolved to defer further discussion until the 2026/27 budget was discussed and the 1000 hour service had been completed. It would also be requested, of those servicing the mower, for a full appraisal of the machine to be undertaken in order for the Finance Working Party to consider the remaining lifespan.
13. Reinstatement/revaluation cost assessment  
It was noted that the revaluation report for the brick garage had now been received, with an increase in the reinstatement cost reported.  
  
The outstanding report for the cemetery chapel was due to be received ahead of the next meeting of the Finance Working Party.
14. Grant aid
  - a. Fun & Friendship  
*Recommended for approval*  
*To award a grant of £365 to the Fun & Friendship Café for their Christmas party.*
15. £106 payment  
There was nothing to discuss.
16. To receive any correspondence  
There was no correspondence.
17. Matters arising for information purposes  
There was nothing to raise.
18. Date of next meeting  
The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025.