

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

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

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

Cllr M Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9, Greenfield Primary School.

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 30th November 2025 was received and all was in order.

It was noted that, subsequent to the library doors being serviced, there had been an issue with the outer door which was waiting to be repaired. An updated quote for replacement doors would be brought back to a future meeting of the Finance Working Party.

An installation date for the installation of smoke detectors in the main hall was pending.

Recommended for approval

To proceed with accepting the quote from Extinguish Fire Solutions for recommendations arising from the recent Fire Extinguisher service, at a cost of £528

To support the resolution of the Village Hall Management Committee in implementing a 4% increase to village hall bar fees, with immediate effect.

To support the Village Hall Management Committee in requesting the monies received from the Countesthorpe Village Hall Charity, in the form of a grant, to be put towards reupholstering the chairs in the main hall.

5. Vehicle insurance renewal

Recommended for approval

To delegate authority to the Parish Council Manager to renew the vehicle insurance, once the renewal quote was received.

6. Practitioners Guide – Year end 2025/2026 changes – Standing item

It was noted that the majority of actions arising from the recent MOT of the Parish Council's website had now been completed and that Vision ICT would be providing costings for the purchase of a gov.uk domain name.

7. Policy on repairing memorials

There was discussion regarding implementing a policy regarding the repair of memorials, with information gathered from the process of other Parishes being fed back to the working party. A policy would be drafted and brought back to the Finance Working Party before being referred to the Strategic Planning & Policy Committee for review.

8. Budget 2026/2027

The draft budget was reviewed with the current draft precept increase standing at 9.09%. This would be circulated to all Councillors ahead of the next Parish Council meeting.

It was noted that there was expected to be a reduction in the Employer Contribution element of the pension scheme, however, this would not be officially decided at the AGM of the Valuation Employer Forum at its meeting on 15th December.

It was noted that the government would not be intending to implement a cap on the level of increases that can be raised on precepts by parish councils over the next three years.

It was noted that there were headings that were going overbudget and it would be considered moving funds within the cost centre headings to cover those overbudgeted headings.

9. Grant aid

A project update and grant aid request had been received from the Chair of Greenfield Primary School PTFA, again regarding their project to install adventure trail play equipment.

Recommended for approval

To respond to the request from the Greenfield Primary School PTFA to advise that the Parish Council would reconsider their grant aid request towards the end of the financial year and to make them aware of the Parish Council's limited budget spend for grants.

10. S106 payment

There was nothing to discuss.

11. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12. Matters arising for information purposes

There was nothing to raise.

13. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7th January 2026.