

A meeting of the Finance Working Party was held in the Village Hall, Station Road, Countesthorpe, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Present: Cllrs S Turner, M Gillespie, P Mount, K Pearce, 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> December 2025 was received and all was in order.

It was noted that the updated quote for the replacement library doors had not yet been received.

It was noted that the John Deere's 1000 hour service had now been completed with the report pending. It had been confirmed that a new battery would be required however the quote for its purchase and installation was being awaited.

Recommended for approval

*There was discussion regarding the grasses in The Square's planters and the previous resolution of the Parish Council, put forward by the Estates Working Party, to remove them and replant the planters. It was recommended to request that the Estates Working Party obtain up to date costings, for the project to be reconsidered.*

*To schedule future annual servicing of the John Deere with Farol Ltd, rather than being completed in-house.*

5. Quarterly Financial Reports as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

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

6. 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 payments against bank reconciliations for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

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

Arrangements would be made for Cllr C Ibbotson to complete relevant checks of the bank reconciliations against bank statements for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

8. Vehicle insurance

It was noted that the Parish Council Manager had renewed the vehicle insurance, after receiving delegated authority, at a cost of £2402.

9. Village hall bookings statistics

Information and statistics regarding village hall bookings were received and discussed. Further investigations would be made into potential improvements which could be made, both to the hall itself and the promotion of the hall and its facilities, to increase booking

numbers and income. This would also be referred to the Village Hall Management Committee for consideration.

10. Asset Register 2025/26

The asset register was reviewed and the total fixed asset value of £1,158,875.76 would be submitted as part of the AGAR for the year end.

A list of items of grounds equipment which had been replaced due to failing the HAVS testing would be brought back to the next meeting of the Finance Working Party for consideration as to whether to scrap, donate or sell, as per the Asset Disposal Policy.

Recommended for approval

*For the asset register to be adopted by the Parish Council.*

11. Pay scales from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – to be verified by the Chair of the Finance Working Party and the Chairman

It was noted that the pay scale information had been sent to both the Chair of the Finance Working Party and the Parish Council Chairman to confirm for accuracy.

12. Budget 2026/2027

The draft budget for 2026/2027 was considered and would be distributed to all councillors ahead of the Parish Council meeting along with the current draft precept increase figure of 8.74%.

Recommended for approval

*For the proposed budget and precept requirement of £497,618 for 2026/2027 to be recommended to the Parish Council for consideration.*

*For the explanation of the recommended precept increase to be approved by the Parish Council for submitting to the District Council along with the precept request.*

13. Grant aid

There were no grant aid applications to consider.

14. S106 payment

There was nothing to discuss.

15. To receive any 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 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.