

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

Cllr M Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4, specifically the grant aid payment to 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 28th February 2026 was received.

Recommended for approval

To accept the quote of £224 from Farol Ltd for the purchase and installation of a new battery for the John Deere mower.

To obtain a quote for a replacement cellar door as the existing one is rotten.

a. To note cost centre expenditure that will be overbudget

It was noted that the following cost centres would end the financial year over budget and would be monitored to better inform future budgeting.

- . 102 – Parish Council Staff Costs
- . 106 – Health and Safety
- . 131 – Closed Churchyard

5. Grounds maintenance equipment

a. HAVS and noise

It was noted that a revised noise and HAVs risk assessment had been produced and would be referred to the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee for review and recommendation.

Recommended for approval

To proceed with undertaking independent HAVs and noise testing every two years.

b. Replacement mower

Recommended for approval

To obtain an updated quote for a Kress mower, to replace an existing mower, along with additional information on the battery requirements and cost, for consideration at the next parish council meeting.

To investigate the possibility of refurbishing two existing mowers which were failing to create one working back up mower.

6. Online banking signatories

It was noted that Cllr M Smith would make arrangements to reinstate his access to the online banking system in order to authorise payments.

7. Automatic closing gates

Recommended for approval

To purchase a replacement part and installation kit directly from the manufacturer at a cost of £366 inc VAT, for the repair of the gate at the Leysland Play Area, to be repaired in house,

and should this be successful then a further two kits would be purchased to replace on the Dale Acre and Leysland play areas.

8. Library door and village hall emergency exit door

Recommended for approval

To place the order for replacement external library doors with Automatic Access Ltd at a cost of £7193.

To accept the quote of £598 from Secom for the required security connections to be made once the new library doors had been installed.

To further plan and continue to monitor the single emergency exit door in the main hall but to authorise the purchase of a replacement door, should the existing one fail.

A decision would need to be made by the Parish Council in terms of the colour.

9. Hanging basket sponsorship

Recommended for approval

To not proceed with the project to obtain sponsorship for the hanging baskets or planters at present.

10. Grant aid

There were no grant aid applications to consider.

11. S106 payment

There was nothing to discuss.

12. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Matters arising for information purposes

There was nothing to raise.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th April 2026.