

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024 at 7.30 PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Persons present: Councillors R Wingett, A-M Butler, J Tournay & Peter Fincham, Teresa Irving – Parish Clerk/RFO. 4 Members of the public were also present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Diane & John Everett – Conflicting appointment.
2. **NOTIFICATION OF WHETHER ANYONE WISHES TO RECORD ANY ITEMS:** The Clerk for the purpose of minuting.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS:** None.
4. **APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Butler was proposed by Cllr Wingett, seconded by Cllr Tournay and unanimously agreed.
5. **ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**  
In accordance with Standing Orders 3f, the period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 10 minutes, unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.  
No questions were raised.
6. **PREPARE DRAFT BUDGET FOR REPORTING TO FULL COUNCIL:**  
In accordance with Schedule 12 of LGA 1972 and Standing Orders Clause 3d, the council reserves the right to go into closed session to discuss confidential matters relating to staffing etc

It was agreed that a closed session would take place at the end of the meeting.

Requests from two residents for consideration in the budget were noted.

- Play equipment to replace items removed from Foxden Drive Play Area
- Additional seating. It was agreed to include £1,500 for a seat at the Community Orchard.
- Planters for Deringwood Drive. It was noted that planters have previously been discounted due to watering issues. Planting directly into the ground is the preferred option, as planters can become a temptation for rubbish to be deposited.

Bulbs to be planted in Autumn 2025. The current thinking is that the recently planted trees will provide good coverage, once they become established.

Cllr Wingett has been in contact with RSPB to ask advice which plants will be best suited for the parish.

- Rethink the Olympicnic. Plans for next year's event are already under review by Full Council.

Notes.

The request for brambles to be removed has been shared with MBC & DPC's Open Spaces.

Pyracantha. '....topping for a tidier appearance', although different views have been received.

A request for vegetation to be cut back where Church Road has been widened. This has already been action by Open Spaces, which included help by residents and an offer by one resident to dispose of the waste in their bin.

Halloween event. A separate event is not considered necessary, as the DCA organise an excellent event for residents.

Garden Competition. Following discussions that this could be replaced by a different competition, the general view is that it should continue for another year, before an alternative is considered.

Open Spaces. A request for an additional £3,000 to be set aside to purchase equipment/storage (mower, strimmer, hi viz vests - printed with 'DPC volunteer - brushes, shovels, etc).

Tommie. A new 'Unknow Women in War Statue' to be considered at the cost of £175.

Litter Picking Contributions. An increase will be inevitable.

Initially, an increase of 5% will be considered. However, consideration will be given that funding should fall in line with increases made by the contributors.

Following due consideration of the projected figures for 2025/26, the recommendation from the Finance Committee to Full Council will be to increase the precept by £1,000 to £40,000. Proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

A detailed breakdown of the above proposals will follow by separate cover.

**7. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY FOR REPORTING TO FULL COUNCIL:**

In the view of the Finance Committee, no amendments are necessary.

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION:** No further items.

In accordance with Item 3d of the Standing Orders, it was **RESOLVED** to close the meeting to members of the public to allow confidential staffing matters to be discussed.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** To be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm