

Minutes for the Meeting of Finance and Assets Committee
held at Exeter Hall on Thursday, 15 January 2026 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Nik Soheili (Chair), Cllr Dave Kanonuwa (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alison Street, and Cllr Robert Packard

In Attendance: Clerk – Sarah Kearney, RFO – Laura Pike, and Facilities Manager – Graham Kearney

Apologies: Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr David Betts, and Cllr Lesley Mclean

26/66 To receive Councillors' Apologies for Absence - Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Clerk prior to the meeting.

The Finance and Asset Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** and accepted the apologies from Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr David Betts, and Cllr Lesley Mclean

26/67 To Record Members' Declarations of Interest regarding the Agenda Items -

To receive any requests for Dispensations or Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the agenda, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, and to note any gifts and hospitality

Nothing to Declare

26/68 Public Participation - Public participation is limited to 10 minutes in total. Members of the public may make only one address to the Council of no more than five minutes' duration and only concerning topics on the agenda.

No attendance from the public

26/69 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 11 December 2025

The Finance & Asset Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by Chair Cllr Soheili.

26/70 Governance:

Nothing to report

26/71 Financial Report – to receive a report on the account status to date – update

71.1 **Budget Monitoring for January 2026** – to consider any overspends

The RFO report: that there had been very little movement since the last meeting

71.2 **Invoices Payments for January 2026** – to acknowledge the invoices, schedule payments

The Finance & Asset Committee acknowledged the payments, and these were signed off by Cllr Alison Street

71.3 **Pavilion Floor** – update from Facilities Manager

Action from the last meeting:

Councillors requested further information, including the report from the insurance company and the quotations that had been obtained.

Councillors queried why Greenwoods were the preferred contractor, particularly as their quotation was slightly higher. It was explained that Greenwoods are builders with the appropriate specialist skills, given that damp ingress had been identified as the cause of the issue.

The Facilities Manager advised that Greenwoods were the preferred company for these works due to their experience and suitability in dealing with leaks and associated remedial works.

Following a full discussion, Councillors agreed for the works to proceed.

The Finance and Asset Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** and approved for the works to be completed by Greenwoods.

26/72 Ear Marked Reserves – amounts and heading to be changed

The RFO/Clerk reviewed the list of reserves and asked the Finance & Assets Committee to finalise the proposed changes, along with agreeing on the recommendations that would require approval by Full Council.

The Clerk/RFO asked Councillors whether they were content with the reserves list as presented, and if they had any questions, or if they wished to review the list line by line. Councillors confirmed that they were content to raise questions for clarification only. Councillors asked several questions, which were discussed and clarified.

The Clerk advised that the Finance & Assets Committee needs to formally agree on the reserves list and submit it as a recommendation to Full Council for approval.

One item was identified as requiring amendment, which the RFO will action in preparation for submission to the Full Parish Council meeting on 29 January.

The Finance and Assets Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended reserves list and associated changes, subject to the agreed amendment being made, and to submit these to Full Council for approval at the meeting on 29 January.

26/73 Legal and General – to consider and agree on opening a new account to hold the Precept in

The Clerk/RFO reported at several Finance & Assets Committee meetings and explained to Councillors that the Clerk and RFO wish to open an additional bank account to hold precept funds, from which money could be drawn down as required to top up the Unity current account. This would ensure that reserves and precept funds are kept separate.

It was further reported that the RFO had explored options with Legal & General but encountered issues with this provider. Following the discussion, Councillors confirmed they were supportive of opening an additional account and agreed that this could be either an additional Unity Bank account or an account with an alternative bank.

It was **AGREED** that the RFO would take this forward as an action and report back to the next meeting with options for an account to which precept monies could be transferred from the start of April 2026.

26/74 Grants – to consider and agree

74.1 **Assisted Reading for Children** – to consider and approve

This grant application was discussed at length. Councillors were supportive of the proposal in principle; however, concerns were raised that the grant may not directly benefit schools within Kidlington.

The Councillors asked the Clerk to seek further clarification, specifically requesting confirmation that the grant money would be spent in Kidlington and asking for the names of the Kidlington schools that would benefit from the grant. It was **AGREED** that

this information would be requested, and that the matter would be brought back to the February meeting for further consideration and approval.

26/75 Stratfield Brake - update

Cllr Soheili asked whether we could request from CDC:

1. The expenses or utility costs for the last quarter.
2. A quote for the “hole” that is in front of the building.

Date of Next Meeting – 19 February 2026 from 6.30 pm at Exeter Hall Committee Room

Meeting Finished: