

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Finance & General Purposes Committee
Held at The Pavilion at 6:00pm on 4th December 2025

PRESENT:

Cllrs D Fletcher, N Hignett, A Windows, K Day, A Hodges, M Trow (from 6:15pm)

CLERK: RFO, C Higgins

No members of the public present

FGP 22.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllrs J Pritchard and L Jones

FGP 23.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS –

23.1.15 No interests declared

23.2.25 No requests for dispensation received

FGP 23.25 MINUTES OF COUNCIL - The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 23rd October 2025 having been circulated with the agenda were taken as read. It was proposed by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Windows and unanimously **RESOLVED** that they be accepted as a true record and the Chairman authorised to sign them.

FGP 24.25 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – No public present

FGP 25.25 ACTUARIAL VALUATION, SHROPSHIRE COUNTY PENSION FUND – The RFO summarised the financial position of the SCPF as a whole, which is improved since the last valuation in 2022. The Pontesbury parish council employer contribution rates are unchanged at 22.7%, which if approved will be applicable from April 2026 to March 2029. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hignett and unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend the valuation be approved by full council.

FGP 26.25 BANK ACCOUNT CHARGES – The committee NOTED the increased charges notified by the Unity Bank, acknowledging that it continues to represent good value and security for parish council funds.

Cllr M Trow arrived at 6:15, apologising for late arrival.

FGP 27.25 BUDGET REVIEW – The RFO tabled the draft budget and explanatory notes, which had been circulated with the agenda.

27.1.25 Salary budget - The confidential salary budget is based on the current staff structure. The Personnel Committee will review before submission to full council in January and any recommendations will be incorporated into a final draft for approval.

27.2.25 Code 35, General Repairs and maintenance – Sufficiency queried but noted that other budgets are provided for repairs to specific assets. (bus shelters, toilets, pavilion & play areas) so budget applies to street furniture only.

27.3.25 Code 44, Wildlife Corridor Maintenance – It was noted that this code had no budget allocation as the wildlife corridor is the responsibility of Shropshire Homes for five years from site completion. *Date of transfer of responsibility to be confirmed.*

27.4.25 Code 41, Flowerbeds – It was noted that the council is moving towards climate friendly plants and away from annual planting.

27.5.25 Pavilion Income – The committee noted an increased budget for service charge income from the police, which is based on a percentage of actual costs which are increasing with inflation.

27.6.25 Code 1 - Room hire income - Cllr Windows questioned whether the income from the Pavilion is being maximised, as the building is closed on Fridays. This is due to staff availability and irregular use for 'Feel Good Friday' events.

27.7.25 Street light column replacements – The committee noted that full council had recently agreed to reallocate £10,000 from the Allotments Earmarked Reserve to fund play area refurbishment. It was recommended that the council utilises the remaining £8,000 in the allotment EMR to offset the new budget for replacement of streetlight columns, (budget £10,000 in 2026/27) and reduce the impact of this cost on the Precept, as there is no immediate prospect of securing land for allotments. The allotment reserve could be replenished over time utilising future CIL or unbudgeted income. It was noted that the community garden is in place, meeting some of the need and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend reallocation of £8,000 from the Allotments reserve to Streetlight column replacements.

2.8.25 Total budget – Further to the above review, it was proposed by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend an **expenditure budget of £295,479** for 2026/27.

FGP 28.25 PRECEPT RECOMMENDATION – The committee noted that budgeted income of £40,525 and predicted surplus of £10,000 from 2025/26, plus £11,000 earmarked reserves, (£3,000 from Hall Bank EMR, £8,000 from Allotment EMR) deducted from the expenditure budget gave a Precept requirement of £233,954. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to recommend a **Precept of £234,000** for approval by full council in January.

FGP 29.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – A provisional date of 28th May 2026 was suggested, for confirmation nearer the time. Meeting start time is to be confirmed.

The Chair thanked all members for their contributions and thanked the staff for their hard work in preparing the budget.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm

Signed

Chairman

Date