

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 10am in The Parish Council Offices, The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs, S Haywood (Chairman), J Bridgeman, S Kingdom and H Walker (from Minute No 2601/15)

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Cllr O Kelly

2601/10 **Apologies**
Cllrs F Biederman and N Tamlin it was noted that Cllr Walker would be late for medical reasons and had sent apologies.

2601/11 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

2601/12 **Public Participation**
None.

2601/13 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, that the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee held on the 13th November 2025 be approved.

2601/14 **Accounts Due for Payment and Receipts for the period from the 11th November 2025 to 23rd January 2026**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the payments totalling £207,294.11 and receipts totalling £108,664.23 copies of which are attached as Appendix One.

2601/15 **Central Fund Grant Applications**
Grant applications for the Central Fund had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members considered the grant applications that had been received for the Central Fund, it was noted that several applicants had applied to both the Cllr Fund and Central Fund for the same running costs. The Parish Council's Grant Aid Policy does state that "the aim of providing grant funding is to assist these community and voluntary groups with one-off costs and grants should be used towards project costs rather than running cost." After discussion and review of the accounts submitted with the applications it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree as follows:

- Bickington Boat applied for £150
Members acknowledged that this organisation had been the recipient of a £150 Cllr Grant and the Central Fund Application was for the same running costs, it was therefore agreed not to award a further grant.

- Mid Devon Mobility applied for £150
It was agreed to award a grant of £150.
- 2nd Fremington Brownies applied for £100
Members acknowledged that this organisation had been the recipient of a £150 Cllr Grant and the Central Fund Application was for the same running costs, it was therefore agreed not to award a further grant.
- Bickington Brownies applied for £100
It was agreed to award a grant of £100.

Cllr Walker entered the meeting.
- Age Concern Barnstaple and North Devon CIO applied for £250
It was agreed to award a grant of £250.
- The Babbages Allotment Association applied for £150
Members acknowledged that this organisation had been the recipient of a £150 Cllr Grant and the Central Fund Application was for the same costs, it was therefore agreed not to award a further grant.
- Instow and Westleigh, West Yelland Parish News applied for £175
Members acknowledged that this organisation had been the recipient of a £100 Cllr Grant and the Central Fund Application was for the same running costs, it was therefore agreed not to award a further grant.

Members asked that the correspondence for the organisations that were not successful in obtaining further grant funding are informed of the reason(s) why and encouraged to reapply if there is a specific project. It was also agreed to reiterate to the successful grant recipients that “the aim of providing grant funding is to assist community and voluntary groups with one-off costs and grants should be used towards project costs rather than running cost.”

It was further agreed to place the underspend of £1,200 from the grants budget into an Ear Marked Reserve which could be used to fund larger projects.

2601/16

Strategic Plan

The draft Strategic Plan for 2026-2031 was circulated prior to the meeting. Members were informed that the following sources had been used to create the draft:

The review of the current Strategic Plan.
Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Climate Emergency Action Plan.
Housing Crisis Statement.

Each Committee would be asked to review and consider its Aims and Objectives for the period of the plan, which would be costed and Full Council will also have an opportunity to review the draft. As part of the plan it was agreed to investigate the following:

Cllr Allowance.

In house services for current contracts.

Asset Transfer and associated costs.

It was agreed that the Strategic Plan should be a working document and reviewed by each Committee every six months.

The meeting closed at 11am

Signed..... Dated.....