

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 13th November 2025 at 10am in The Parish Council Offices, The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs, F Biederman (Chairman), J Bridgeman, S Haywood, S Kingdom and H Walker

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2511/11 **Apologies**
None.

2511/12 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

2511/13 **Public Participation**
None.

2511/14 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, that the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee held on the 21st October 2025 be approved.

2511/15 **Staff Salaries**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the staff salaries, expenses, PAYE/NI and pension payments for the month of October 2025.

2511/16 **Accounts Due for Payment and Receipts for the period from the 18th October to 10th November 2025**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the payments totalling £76,701.90 and receipts totalling £41,394.11 copies of which are attached as Appendix One.

2511/17 **Parish Council Vehicle**
Members were informed that the lease on the current van was due to end in December 2025, options and costs had been obtained to renew the lease/seek a new lease, lease a new electric vehicle or purchase the current van.

Members considered the costings associated with the options, it was noted that the Parish Council had leased the current van from new, it had low mileage and had been sign written. It was felt that the cost of leasing the electric van, along with the installation of a charging point, which would likely involve moving parking bays in the car park, was not financially viable at this time, due to the costs involved and the condition of the van it was felt that purchasing the van would be the financially viable options and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to purchase the current van using funds from the Capital Purchase EMR and General Reserves if necessary.

SDH

Members acknowledged that it had been agreed at the last meeting to change the Capital Purchase EMR in the next Financial Year to enhancement of community buildings. Members agreed that funds should be added to this EMR from savings at the end of the financial year and the EMR should be renamed Community Facilities and Projects.

2511/18 **Budgets and Precept 2026-2027**

The draft budgets for 2026-2027 were circulated prior to the meeting. Members were informed that the draft budgets reflected the expected increases in running costs, along with the purchase of replacement office equipment.

It was noted that whilst most running costs continued to increase, the postage budget could be decreased slightly with more correspondence being circulated via email.

A budgetary provision to contribute to North Devon Council for the Street Marshalls had been included, as agreed, and members asked if the amount per parishioner could be circulated to the Committee.

The budget for Tews Lane Enhancements had been removed as the extension to the pavilion was due to complete in January 2026.

It was noted that the following contracts were due to end and an increase in costs had been included within the draft budgets:

- Grounds Maintenance contract for Tews Lane.
- Highway Grass Cutting.
- Parish Council Grass Cutting.

The Committee was informed that relevant Committees were reviewing hire charges and rents, as requested, and the draft budgets reflected the reviews to date.

It was noted that at the last meeting it had been agreed to put the grant funding for Clarity (£3,850) which is no longer running Let's Talk Fremington into the Capital Purchase EMR (which would be renamed) and release the funds for fees associated with the rebuild of the Tomlin Hall project.

Members reviewed the Parish Council's reserves and noted that it had been agreed to place further funds into the Capital Purchase EMR which will be renamed Community Facilities and Projects, following the strategic review of play areas it was noted that significant funds will need to be built up in the Play Area EMR, it was agreed to fully review reserves at the end of the financial year.

SH

Based on the draft budgets the recommended precept was £323,564.10 which based on a Band D Property and last year's tax base is an annual increase of £1.36 and represents an annual payment of £69.22 (based on a Band D property), members felt this represents good value for money and a below inflation rise.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the budgets and to recommend to Full Council that the precept for 2026-2027 is set at £323,564.10.

The meeting closed at 10.25am

Signed  Dated 27/2/26