



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on  
Monday on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 6.30pm**

Present: Chairman: Simon Horton  
Councillors: Gary Fuller, Michael Fitch and Guy Valentine-Neale  
RFO/Deputy Clerk: Chani Sanger

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Councillors Tim Prater & Hazel Barrett
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting on **16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.  
**Proposed by: Councillor Guy Valentine-Neale**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Michael Fitch**  
**Approved by all present**
- 4. Monthly finance information:** The monthly information from Scribe and the PWLB information were circulated in advance of the meeting, and there was nothing of note to discuss.
- 5. Quarterly and six-monthly financial performance information:** This item was deferred as the reports were not available for discussion.
- 6. 2025/2026 budget:** It was noted that the council would need to start discussions regarding the 2025/2026 budget. This would include future ambitions to be considered by the council. This ambition list would also allow for grant funding to be applied for. It was noted that the parish owns aging equipment that will require replacement in the near future.

CCTV has been a key expenditure in the 2024/2025 budget and additional CCTV expenditure will be required in the 2025/2026 budget. Speed watch equipment and '20 is plenty' will also require expenditure.

It was noted that CCTV expenditure has been substantial but that several incidents in the parish have occurred and that the CCTV has been instrumental in garnering positive results. For example, antisocial behaviour in Military Road play park, a missing persons incident and a car being damaged in Castle Road car park. The CCTV has been worth the cost, but the positive results have also been helped by KCC Community Warden Giles Barnard and by Kent Police.

- 7. PWLB**  
Interest payments are servicing the loan at present however this will not be the case in the long term. The council will need to look at how the money can be best invested.

Chairman's initials and date

**8. Insurance**

It was noted that the insurance subscription had renewed automatically as part of a three-year fixed cost. The cost will increase at the end of the three-year period.

**9. Correspondence**

None at this time

**10. Information**

It was noted that the documentation from Unity Trust Bank had arrived, and the initial account had been opened. The staff at Unity Trust had advised that a more appropriate account was available that would incur less fees for the council and so this account was opened. The savings account will also be opened once the relevant additional documentation has arrived.

It was noted that additional savings accounts will need to be discussed as another bond renews in December.

**10. Date of next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Meeting finished at 6.55pm.**

Signed by Chairman of Finance Committee ..... Dated .....