



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on
Monday on 17th March 2025 at 6.30pm**

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**Present:**                      **Chairman:**              **Simon Horton**

**Councillors:**        **Tim Prater, Hazel Barrett & Gary Fuller**

**RFO**                      **Chani Sanger**

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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:** None
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting on **17th February 2025**, were approved as a correct record.
Proposed by: Councillor Hazel Barrett
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Fuller
Approved by all present
- 4. Monthly finance information:** The finance information had been previously circulated. It was noted that there was a large amount of money in the HSBC account and that £85,000 of this was due to be transferred to a savings account with United Trust Bank. A financial end of year summary will be produced for councillors in April.
- 5. SSE:**
In February it was noted that there had been several issues with SSE Energy and that a reimbursement of around £800 was due to SPC. It was noted that no reimbursement had been received, and SSE should be chased. In addition to this it was noted that SSE should be contacted to ask for a quote for providing a contracted rate again as it was proving difficult to find alternative suppliers.
- 6. United Trust Bank:**
It was noted that the account with United Trust Bank had been opened, however the cheque given had not been signed in line with the bank mandate. Payments will be made over the next week or so to bring the account balance to £85,000. It was noted that the HSBC account needs to be updated to include additional signatories.
- 7. Granville Toilets:**
It was noted that there have been several issues with the toilets on Granville Parade, these issues include the soap dispensers and a flush mechanism. The issues are ongoing and will require funds to fix. The flush mechanism alone is £820 including parts and labour. As such, the budget will require some adjustments to ensure the improvements and fixes can be made. Councillors agreed that the toilets should be fixed as a priority and then professionally cleaned.
Proposed by: Councillor Hazel Barrett
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Fuller
Approved by all present

Chairman's initials and date

8. PWLB:

It was noted that short term investments were due to mature and there is an ongoing difficulty in finding rates that satisfy the 4.44% needed to service the loan. There may be other investments that council can use the money on to increase the return.

9. Correspondence: None

10. Information:

- KCC is doing detailed work for the '20 is plenty' initiative which will outline costs for SPC. We are hoping to save money by timing things cleverly.
- The internal auditor is completing the internal audit on April 9th.
- The asset register is in the process of being reviewed and updated.
- Main council will be discussing finding an extra £260 for Speedwatch equipment as the costs have increased since budgeted for.
- Main council will be discussing the expenditure relating to the solar project at the Boathouse. The roof survey is due to be completed, there is hope that by asking Harmers to install the safety scaffolding we can save on the overall costs.

11. Date of next meeting: 21st April 2025

Meeting finished at 6:52pm.

Signed by Chairman of Finance Committee Dated