

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on Monday on 7th April 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: Chairman: Simon Horton

Councillors: Tim Prater, Hazel Barrett & Gary Fuller

RFO 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: None

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes: The minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting on **17th March 2025**, were approved as a correct record following the addition of Cllr Michael Fitch to the apologies.

Proposed by: Councillor Gary Fuller Seconded by: Councillor Hazel Barrett

Approved by all present

4. Monthly finance information: The finance information had been previously circulated. It was noted that Cllr Horton and the RFO would produce an end of year finance report for the meeting in May.

It was noted that the new Redwood account had been opened, and funds were being sent over to make the account up to £85,000.

5. SSE:

It was noted that SSE had sent an update regarding costs but that the RFO needed to check that the figures were accurate.

It was noted that the RFO was having difficulty in sourcing companies to provide an unmetered electricity supply, however SSE had stated that they could offer a short-term contract at a cost of around £165 per month until July.

Councillors approved the delegation of signing the SSE contract to the Clerk or RFO in conjunction with Cllr Horton.

Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater Seconded by: Councillor Gary Fuller

Approved by all present

6. Project Solar Update:

It was noted that an ultrasound/x-ray of the toilet block had been carried out and the report will be available soon. The feedback from the surveyor was that there is an approximately 20cm concrete slab in situ and lots of rebar. This indicates that the roof could take substantial weight. It was noted that once the report is received and the green light is given, the appropriate permissions can be sought to take the project to the next stage.

Chairman's initials and date

7. Granville Toilets:

It was noted that the council had authorised the expenditure on the replacement unit and that the instruction had been actioned and delivery attempted. Unfortunately, the company delivering did not make note that a forklift would be needed on the receiving end, nor had that need been conveyed to the council. As such the unit was unable to be delivered and will be reattempted shortly.

It was noted that some of the toilets could be closed over the winter months to reduce anti-social behaviour costs.

Councillors noted that the toilets require another deep clean (at a cost of £475), and that the results of the previous clean were astonishing. It was noted that the cost was acceptable, and that deep cleaning should be carried out only after all refurbishment works had been completed.

Proposed by: Councillor Simon Horton Seconded by: Councillor Tim Prater Approved by all present

8. PWLB:

It was noted that interest rates are low and that the RFO will keep an eye on interest rates.

9. Correspondence: None

10. Information:

- It was noted that the internal audit was taking place on 9th April.

11. Date of next meeting: 19th May 2025

Meeting finished at 6:48pm.

Signed by Chairman o	of Finance Committee	Dated	d k
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