



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on
Monday on 26th January 2026 at 5.45pm

Present:

Chair: Simon Horton

Councillors: Hazel Barrett & Tim Prater

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

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:** Cllrs Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller and Guy Valentine-Neale
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting on **15th December 2025** were approved as a correct record.
Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater
Seconded by: Councillor Hazel Barret
Approved by all present

4. Monthly Finance Information

It was noted that the monthly finance reports had been circulated and that the bank reconciliation for the previous month had been completed. The Chair thanked the clerk and her colleague Mandy for working so efficiently.

5. Precept

It was noted that at the last meeting the 2026/27 Precept and draft Budget were circulated, and a proposed increase in precept to £122,446 were considered and accepted:

The budget seeks a 2.98% increase in the precept to £52.11 (Band D equivalent) based on the Sandgate Tax base figure of 2,349.77 for 2026/2027. 2.98% is a rise of Band D equivalent Precept from £50.60 to £52.11 a rise of £1.51 a year, around 2.9p per week. With that precept income and the draft budget, there is a predicted break-even budget despite allowing funding for a possible concrete table tennis table in Fremantle Park and an increase in the budget for the Sandgate Sea Festival.

Following the Cabinet meeting held on 10 December 2025, Cabinet Members agreed to adopt a replacement Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2026/27. This revised scheme increases council tax support from 75% to 100%, providing additional assistance to low-income and vulnerable households.

As a result of this decision, the overall tax base has been reduced from that set out in the precept demand form issued on 8 December 2025.

Consequently, the precept request for Sandgate Parish Council has increased to 4.26%, rather than the originally anticipated 3%, to achieve the same total precept of £122,446. In practical terms, this equates to an increase of approximately 3 pence per week per household.

Chair's initials and date

6. Reserves Washer/Dryer Repair – Reserve Funding

It was noted that the cost of repairs to the washer/dryer unit in the toilet block had initially been met from the Major Projects Reserve.

It was proposed that half of the amount be transferred from the General Reserve to the Major Projects Reserve in the current financial year, and the remaining half in the following financial year.

Accordingly, it was proposed that £2,785.00 be transferred from the General Reserve to the Major Projects Reserve during the current fiscal year.

Proposed by Councillor Simon Horton

Seconded by Councillor Tim Prater

Agreed by all

7. Information:

The Council noted that the Internal Auditor is scheduled to carry out the initial review of the accounts on Friday.

It was noted that the bench project would now be launched. A bench was already in place, with a commemorative plaque for Robert Bliss installed; the cost of this plaque would be met from the Chair's Allowance.

It was proposed that the remaining plaque spaces be made available at a cost of £200.00 per plaque. It was further noted that, once all seven plaques had been purchased, the total cost of the bench and its installation would be fully covered.

Proposed by Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded by Councillor Simon Horton

Agreed by all

9. Date of next meeting: 16th February 2026

Signed by Chair of Finance Committee Dated