BARLASTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 20 January 2025 at Barlaston Village Hall at 18:45

Present:

Cllr D Borasinski	Cllr L Arnold
Cllr P Fisher (Chairman)	Cllr G Jones
Cllr E Philpott	Cllr S Tudor

Also in attendance: Parish Clerk: Viv O'Dunne, Cllr C Hurst.

16. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Pickering and Dando. It was resolved to accept these.
17. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
18. **Written Applications for Dispensations:** There were no written applications for dispensation.
19. **Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 11 November 2025:** The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
20. **Review of financial position:** The Committee reviewed the current financial position, the likely year-end outcome, and explanations of any significant variances.
21. **Virements:** It was acknowledged that virements may be required at year-end. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, any movement of funds between budget headings will be brought to Full Council for approval in March
22. **Earmarked Reserves:** The Finance Committee reviewed Earmarked Reserves and resolved to recommend to full council the reallocation of the Village Hall Reserves to the Play Park Reserve, and to add £4,077 bringing it to £140,000 as a one-off exception, increase the Election Reserve by £3,000 and the Asset Replacement Reserve by £1,000, and allocate £2,000 to the General Reserve. The updated reserves are: Play Area £140,000, Asset Replacement £6,000, Election Costs £10,000, Village Hall Contingency £0, Village Hall Works £0.
23. **Financial Strategy and Budget 2026/2027:** The Committee reviewed the draft budget line by line and resolved to recommend it to the Parish Council, noting proposed increases to s137 grants, potential capital project costs, and possible rises in grounds maintenance.
24. **Precept Recommendation 2026/2027:** The Committee reviewed the draft budget and recommended that the Parish Council sets the precept for 2026/27 at £116,792, a 1.3% increase on 2025/26.
25. **Date of next meeting:** To be confirmed