

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk & RFO to the Council – Mr M Potts
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Minutes

Meeting of the Finance Committee

Held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 19:00

Venue: Vicarage Lane Function Room, Vicarage Lane, Shevington, WN6 8HP

Present:

Cllrs: *W McKnight, J Whitely, M Grimes, C Horridge.*

Officers: *Mr Michael Potts (Clerk & RFO)*

Members of the Public: 1

Part One

FC/25/19 – Attendance

Apologies: Cllr Mike Grimes, Cllr Helen Thompson, Cllr Jess Diggle, Cllr Janet Brown.

In attendance:

Mike Potts – Clerk & RFO.

FC/25/20 – Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011.

FC/25/21 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on **10 December 2025** were reviewed.

Resolved:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

FC/25/22 – Financial Position and Forecast to Year End

The Clerk & RFO presented a revised financial position report, including a forecast to 31 March 2026, noting that:

- The report is **not a budget for 2026/27**, but a review of the current financial year with a forecast to year end.
- Budgeted figures relating to the **£190,000 PWLB loan** had been removed, as the loan has not yet been drawn down and relates to the 2026/27 financial year.
- A number of budget lines remain **unforecast** due to the ad-hoc nature of expenditure and the timing of invoices.
- Administrative budgets show a headline surplus, though this is expected to reduce once outstanding and likely costs (including newsletters and website-related costs) are accounted for.
- Community budgets remain relatively stable and are expected to return a surplus.
- Maintenance budgets are broadly well forecast but may reduce due to outstanding works, potential tree works, and ad-hoc emergency expenditure.

- Staff costs currently show a modest surplus, which may be eroded by future pay pressures.
- While earlier figures suggested a higher surplus, a more prudent estimate places the likely year-end position at approximately **£20,000**.

Members discussed the importance of taking a **conservative view** of the forecast position in light of known commitments and risks.

Resolved:

That the financial position and forecast to 31 March 2026 be noted.

FC/25/23 – Reserves Position

The Committee reviewed the current general and earmarked reserves, noting:

- the importance of maintaining adequate reserves to support operational resilience, and
- the need to reflect upcoming capital works, including Memorial Park drainage and footpath improvements.

Members agreed that reserve allocations may require further review once the final year-end position is confirmed.

Resolved:

That the reserves position be noted.

FC/25/24 – Precept Considerations for 2026/27

The Committee considered the financial information presented in relation to the setting of the 2026/27 precept, including:

- the forecast outturn for 2025/26,
- inflationary pressures and known future commitments,
- the need to maintain service delivery and financial resilience, and
- the importance of avoiding sharp increases in future years.

Following discussion, the Chair put a **3% increase** in the parish precept to the vote.

Resolved:

That the Finance Committee **recommends a 3% increase in the parish precept for 2026/27** for approval by Full Council.

FC/25/25 – Submission to Wigan Council

The Clerk advised Members on the requirements and timescales for submission of the precept request to Wigan Council, including agreed wording for inclusion on Council Tax bills.

Resolved:

That the Clerk proceed with the precept submission following Full Council approval.

FC/25/26 – Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 11 March 2026**.

Meeting closed at: 20:37