

All minutes are draft and subject to approval at the next meeting

**FERRING PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
(Advisory Powers Only)**

**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held at 7.30pm
on Monday 22nd January 2024 in the Parish Office**

Present	Councillors	Lesley Young (Chairman)
		Terry Jackson (Vice Chairman)
		Roger Elkins
		Clare Royal
		Graham Bootle
		Ruth Arnold

1	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Councillor Andy Walker. The apologies were accepted.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest Councillor Lesley young declared an interest in agenda item 6 Approach & Presentation by Village Hall Trustees. Councillor Roger Elkins declared an interest in agenda item 13 FPC Precept 2024 – 2025.</p>	
3	<p>Public Question Time There were no public questions.</p>	
4	<p>To confirm the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 13th November 2023. The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 13th November 2023 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman</p>	
5	<p>Actions update from the last meeting Minute item 8b, Telescope, the Clerk advised that the issue with the telescope is in hand but been a little problematic and she will ask the FPC Maintenance Contractor to assist. Councillor Roger Elkins asked if the new benches have been installed in the gated play area. The Clerk will check.</p>	<p>CLERK</p> <p>CLERK</p>
6	<p>Approach & Presentation by Village Hall Trustees – Presentation from</p>	

	<p>Simon Cornish</p> <p>Councillors will recall, Ferring Village Hall celebrates its centenary in 2024. The hall is hoping to use that as a springboard to fundraise to replace the boundary wall across the front and down the side of the Village Hall plot to address issues which require attention but also to ensure that these are addressed by providing a new wall that is in keeping with the distinctive character of the Village Hall.</p> <p>The Village Hall Trustees are seeking the support of Ferring Parish Council to support them with a financial grant as a springboard to their fundraising target, leaving the Trustees of Ferring Village Hall to raise the remaining funds.</p> <p>At the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting on 2nd October 2023. Councillors had asked for clarification in relation to materials considered, foundations, building survey, professional assessment, quotations obtained and the overall project itself.</p> <p>The Village Hall Trustees have provided the following to the Finance & General Purposes Committee :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A surveyor’s report on the suitability of the existing foundations • Alternative estimates for comparison <p>The Village Hall Trustees employed a professional contractor to examine the existing foundations. These were found not suitable for re-use, so new foundations need to be set.</p> <p>Drawings to show the details of what is needed have been provided. Once this report was received, the Village Hall Trustees were then able to meet builders to obtain estimates based on this. So far, two estimates have been obtained with a third due shortly.</p> <p>After as brief discussion, the Committee recommended that Council approve in principle a donation of £20k towards the rebuild of the boundary wall at the Village Hall.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
7	<p>Accounts and Finance</p> <p>The income and expenditure schedule for October & November 2023 were reviewed and will be recommended for Full Council approval.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
8	<p>Committee to note payments made under dispensation for expenditure for Committee minuted instruction.</p> <p>a. Warren Pond locks x2 (<i>Environment Liaison Committee 15th January</i>).</p>	

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	The Finance & General purposes Committee noted the payment made under Committee dispensation	
9	<p>Environment Liaison Committee</p> <p>a. The Conservation Group has requested that FPC make an official complaint regarding the recent Gas works.</p> <p>After a brief discussion, it was agreed that in the first instance, Councillor John Tero, as the Chairman of the Environment Liaison Committee will revert back to the Conservation Group to explain that before FPC can consider to write an official complaint, that we would require evidence including the specific areas and photos.</p> <p>Once received, the Clerk can contact SGN to ensure that the restoration work is completed.</p> <p>It was also noted that FRSA may have further information and evidence.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>CLERK</p>
10	<p>Roads, Community & Sports Committee</p> <p>a. The Committee noted the task Groups Parking Questionnaire – prepared for parish flyer and website.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Car Park proposal was first discussed as part of a wider proposal under the Ferring Neighbourhood Plan in 2014 and was designed as such to service the proposed community centre. In the absence of the new community centre, the car park proposal will be a stand-alone project that will require planning permission and that that ADC, the land owner, do not have a budget for this project and that it will be financed in its entirety by the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was noted that as a result of the public consultation in 2021, only 31 residents responded with 23 in support and 8 objections.</p> <p>It had been agreed that a Task Group was formed to discuss the feasibility of the project. The Task Group met 23.09.23 with the primary question that needed to be answered was if a car park at the proposed location would be a resolution to village parking issues and of benefit which will justify the significant cost involved and loss of public open space.</p> <p>The Task Group suggestion was to add a questionnaire to the next Parish flyer to seek the views of the village. The Task Group has now provided the proposed questionnaire.</p> <p>The Finance & General Purposes Committee thanked the Task Group for their work. However, it was considered that such a questionnaire should be supported with detailed context and it was noted that the Parish Council has already completed a consultation in relation to parking.</p>	

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	<p>There were also concerns that ADC has confirmed 25.05.23 that they do not hold a budget for this the project, therefore it is likely that it would be funded entirely by the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was agreed that Councillor Clare Royal will report back with Councillors concerns at the next Roads, Community & Sports Committee meeting.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
11	<p>Parish Clerk Report including Financial Matters</p> <p>a. The Committee noted the Asbestos Maintenance Survey 11.12.23 at £250 b. The Committee noted the FPC Asbestos Management Policy – prepared by Councillor Terry Jackson. <i>(the Policy is available to read in the office)</i></p>	
12	<p>Public Conveniences Village Green – Refurbishment</p> <p>a. The Committee recommended total contribution expenditure. b. The Committee recommended ADC Tender Report. c. The Committee recommended to proceed with the project.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
13	<p>FPC Precept 2024 – 2025</p> <p>The Committee reviewed and recommended the draft Precept prepared by the Clerk, for Full Council approval.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
14	<p>All about Ferring Magazine</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Clerk will include an FPC Precept 2024 – 2025 article in an appropriate edition.</p>	CLERK
15	<p>Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next Agenda.</p> <p>In relation to the refurbishment of the Village Green Public Conveniences, the Clerk will ask ADC for the proposed installation dates.</p>	CLERK
	The meeting closed at 8.30pm.	
	Date of next meeting Monday 19 th February 2024	
	<p>Minutes approved</p> <p>Chairman Date</p>	