

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 Wednesday 8th April 2026 in the Parish Office**

Present	Councillors	Graham Bootle
		Stuart Davies
		Roger Elkins
		Ruth Arnold
		Clare Royal
		John Tero

1	Elect a Chairman – Councillor Graham Bootle was elected as the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.	
2	Elect a Vice Chairman – Councillor Stuart Davies was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.	
3	Apologies for absence There were no apologies.	
4	Declarations of interest Councillor Clare Royal declared an interest in agenda item 12 c.	
5	Public Question Time There were no public questions.	
6	To confirm the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 14th January 2026. The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14th January 2026 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
7	Actions update from the last meeting Pantiles Ditch – A blockage at the Pantiles ditch has been identified. The culvert appears to have semi collapsed and the water is high in the ditch to the east and almost empty to the west. The Clerk has contacted WSCC. Due to this being riparian ownership, WSCC	

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	are now taking the lead on this matter.	
8	<p>Committee Members Councillor Stuart Davies was formally welcomed onto the Finance & General Purposes Committee.</p>	
9	<p>Accounts and Finance The Income and Expenditure schedule for February 2026 was reviewed and will be recommended for Full Council approval.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
10	<p>Committee to note payments made under dispensation for expenditure for Committee minuted instruction. There were none.</p>	
11	<p>Parish Clerk Report including Financial Matters – Village Hall Event – The Committee noted the ‘Expo’ morning on Saturday 30th May 2026 from 10:00am – 12.30pm. timings corrected.</p>	
12	<p>Environment Liaison Committee a. Benches on the Village Green – Recommendation from the Environment Liaison Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the replacement of the damaged bench and installation of three additional benches as outlined; 2. Agrees the proposed locations as shown on the attached map; 3. Authorises the Clerk to confirm final costs and place the order within the agreed budget. <p>Bench costs are: 2 x heavy duty picnic benches at £403 each excluding VAT (£806) 2 x Sen Reston seat at £265 each excluding VAT (£530)</p> <p>The Clerk will confirm the delivery cost and liaise with ADC regarding the installation, including the possibility of the benches being installed on appropriate plastic weed grids.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p> <p>b. Community Allotment – The Community Charity Champion at Asda Superstore has approached FPC with an idea to create a community allotment site within the supermarket grounds.</p> <p>The proposal is at an early stage, and ASDA have asked whether the Parish</p>	

	<p>Council may be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice or guidance regarding the development of a community allotment. • Offer support or involvement in the project. • Nominate a councillor who may be willing to liaise with ASDA and work with them as the idea develops. <p>At this stage no detailed plans have been presented, but the initiative could potentially provide community growing space, opportunities for local engagement, and environmental benefits.</p> <p>The Committee agreed FPC involvement with the proposed project from ASDA and in the first instance Councillor John Tero and Amanda Thomas will engage with the Community Charity Champion.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p> <p>c. Allotments Water System – The Committee considered the quotations, and it was suggested that, although the project would be funded by FPC, the allotment annual subscriptions could be adjusted to help recoup some of the cost, reflecting the benefit of the new facility.</p> <p>It was agreed that Parish Office Personnel and Councillor Ruth Arnold would meet with the allotment holders to gauge interest in a new water system.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Ferring Rife Car Park & Public Conveniences Full Council 21st July 2025, minute item 07-07-2025, d, 3, ADC Meeting Councillors Clare Royal, John Tero, and District Councillor Roger Elkins met with ADC to discuss options to improve drainage and develop part of the Rife Car Park near the Bluebird Café. ADC will revert to FPC with a full proposal. ADC has now contacted the Clerk requesting a discussion of the possible proposals.</p> <p>ADC Property & Estates Manager has now contacted the Clerk with a request to discussing the possible proposals.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that, in the first instance, FPC will request a formal follow-up meeting to review the progress of any proposals. It was also agreed that FPC will provide the agenda.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Grant request Ferring CofE School – The Committee noted that the school has worked closely with WSCC Highways and has taken a number of proactive steps to address the issue</p>	

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	<p>and encourage safer parking practices at drop-off and pick-up times.</p> <p>The school would like to invest in School Kid Cut Out pavement signage. The Committee agreed to the grant application of £700 for the purchase of a “School Kid Cut Out Pavement Sign – Don’t Park Here” to assist with safety at the school.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
15	<p>Appoint Internal Auditor The Committee agreed to appoint Smithe & Co (Jennifer Smith) as the Internal Auditor for 2025 – 2026.</p> <p>The above is recommended for Full Council approval.</p>	
16	<p>All about Ferring Magazine There was nothing to mention.</p>	
17	<p>Urgent matters arising since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next Agenda. There was nothing to mention.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.30pm.</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting Wednesday 6th May 2026</p>	
	<p>Minutes approved</p> <p>Chairman Date</p>	