



MINUTES

Committee: Finance and Policy Committee
Date: Tuesday 17 March 2026
Time: 18.30pm
Venue: Parish Council Office

Present

Cllr Jan Evans (Chairman)
Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright
Cllr Vivienne Hodges

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

10/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

11/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

12/2026 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2026 as a correct record.

13/2026 STANDING ITEM – CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY:

The committee noted the Council's commitment to embed the Climate and Ecology Emergency Declaration across all activities, ensuring environmental impacts are considered in a fully integrated approach to climate change mitigation.

14/2026 GRANT APPLICATIONS

A summary of the Grant Applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Community Swimming Pool – The committee considered the application a strong case with clear community benefit, particularly in building children's water confidence and safety, and agreed it was worthy of support.

Friends of Moretonhampstead School (FOMS) – The committee welcomed FOMS' move toward formal PTA governance, viewing it as positive for the school and supportive of the application.

Parish Hall Management Committee – The committee reaffirmed support for the Parish Hall but, given previous substantial funding and the maintenance-focused nature of the request, agreed to fund materials only and not labour.

Wellmoor (Moretonhampstead Development Trust) - The committee recognised the value of coordinated volunteering but, as the application was largely for staff costs, agreed to limit support to the printing expenses.

Allotment Association - The committee regarded this as the strongest and most convincing application, offering clear community value and a well-planned proposal, and supported it fully.

Moretonhampstead Association for Youth - The committee was unable to support the application because no supporting documents were provided.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to recommend the award of the following grants:

- Community Swimming Pool - £150.00
- Friends of Moretonhampstead School - £100.00
- Parish Hall Management Committee - £200.00
- Wellmoor (MDT) - £60.00
- Allotment Association - £178.80
- Moretonhampstead Association for Youth - £0

Total Awarded £688.80.

15/2026 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Financial Regulations reviewed by the Clerk had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to the full council to approve the Financial Regulations.

16/2026 STANDING ORDERS

The Standing Orders reviewed by the Clerk had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chair expressed concern that the Standing Orders use exclusively male pronouns throughout, noting that this wording feels outdated and inconsistent with modern practice, and while not proposing that the Clerk amend the document, she wished the Council to feed back to NALC that more inclusive terminology such as “they” and “chair” should now be standard.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to the full council to approve the Standing Orders.

17/2026 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Risk Assessment reviewed by the Clerk had been circulated with the agenda. The committee discussed the Risk Assessment and suggested the following additions:

- Recreation Area – Risk of vandalism: Add reference to vandalism alongside existing safety risks.
- Reputation – Risk of poor public perception: Note that prompt, courteous correspondence supports the Council's reputation.
- Volunteers – Risk relating to health, safety and safeguarding: Include recognition of volunteer H&S and safeguarding for young volunteers, with the Clerk drafting a safeguarding policy.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to the full council to approve the Risk Assessment with amendments.

18/2026 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Statement of Internal Control reviewed by the Clerk had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to the full council to approve the Statement of Internal Control.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.08pm.