



# **Ansdell & Fairhaven Parish Council**

## **MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a Meeting held at Fairhaven Methodist Church, Woodlands Rd,  
Ansdell on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 7pm.**

Committee Members Present: Councillor D Perkins in the Chair  
Councillors M Morris, P Wilkinson

In Attendance: Daniel Guise, Clerk & RFO  
Reverend Michaela Barker, Fairhaven Methodist Church

### **F9. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Frith-Williams.

### **F10. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

### **F11. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **F12. Quarterly Accounts to End September 2026**

The Committee considered the quarterly accounts to the end of September 2026.

The Clerk noted that the second portion of the precept had arrived as expected. He reported that the projected income for the financial year 2026-27 had increased by

about £2k. This was due to income expected from the fundraising Psychic Night and an expected VAT rebate, which were not accounted for at the last review.

Total spending to the end of September 2026 was approximately £36.5k. The Clerk reported that projected expenditure for the financial year 2026-27 had increased. At the last review, it was projected to be about £59k, and this had increased to about £73k. This was not the result of one single change, but rather the competing effects of several changes, including the inclusion of audit costs, increased spending on the Christmas Lights and SPIDs, a fall in grant spending in the second quarter, and a decrease in projected spending on a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Councillors discussed what further funds would be needed for Christmas lights and electrical work for them. Cllr Paul Wilkinson advised that it would not be feasible to string lights between lighting columns, but it should be possible to put “umbrellas” of lights around trees. He also noted that the Council needed to allow some funds for building the Santa’s grotto, which would be turned into a nativity scene after the switch-on and then stored for future years.

Overall, it was expected that the umbrella lights for the trees, electrical works, materials for the Santa’s grotto and a new Santa outfit would be covered by a £15,000 budget.

Councillors discussed the delivery of the lights which were already on order. It was expected that delivery would be required in the first week of November. Cllr Wilkinson advised that he would send Tim Young’s contact details to the Clerk, to help arrange installation.

RESOLVED: i) that the quarterly accounts to end September 2026 be noted; and

ii) that the Committee recommend to the Council the allocation of £15,000 to cover further Christmas lights, electrical work to support the Christmas lights, and materials for Santa’s grotto and costume.

### **F13. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation – End September 2026**

Cllr Morris verified and signed the quarterly bank reconciliation document, in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.6.

### **F14. Draft Budget for 2027-28**

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2027-28. He noted that the draft envisioned a precept of less than 30% of the 2026-27 precept. He noted that the reduction in

general reserves delivered by the draft budget was, nevertheless, quite modest – only approximately £7k. The Clerk explained that achieving this would require a very significant cut in the precept because the precept had, over the prior two years, been very large relative to the council's actual spending.

However, the Clerk emphasised that the draft budget did not contain any new spending programmes which councillors may have in mind, nor did it put anything aside into new earmarked reserves, which councillors may consider if they believed the council needed to save for specific purposes. Such initiatives would lessen the drop in the precept, but the proposals would need to be shared with the Clerk, so they could be factored into the next version of the budget.

Cllr P Wilkinson noted that he wished to implement a project concerning safety on Skew Bridge, to erect crash barriers there. The ideal would be Armco barriers with fluorescent chevrons painted on them. Other ideas mentioned included an initiative to counter dog fouling at the cemetery, CCTV locations to counter obstructive parking, and a Christmas dinner for relevant local groups. Cllr Perkins suggested the development of the recreation ground on Lansdowne Road. Cllr Wilkinson raised the question of who owned the land, whether it was the primary school next door or Fylde Borough Council.

The Clerk suggested that, in future years, the Council could direct its fundraising efforts (via events like the Ball and Psychic night) to a local charity or charities, rather than the Christmas lights. He noted that councils often allowed the Mayor or Chairman to nominate charities to be the beneficiaries of the council's fundraising. He emphasised that it was entirely up to the Council, but it would help to smooth fluctuations in the precept.

RESOLVED: that the committee gather proposals for new council initiatives or earmarked reserves which councillors wished to implement in financial year 2027-28.

#### **F15. Grant Application from St Paul's Church Ansdell and Fairhaven**

The Committee considered an application for a grant of £122, from St Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven.

RESOLVED: i) that the Council, in accordance with its powers under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

£122 grant to St Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven; and

ii) that the Clerk encourage the Church to apply for more funds.

The Committee set the date for its next meeting as Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

**The meeting finished at 7:50pm.**