

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7 p.m. in the Pavilion, Lay Avenue, Berinsfield, Oxon.

Councillor P. Bridge, Councillor I. Bunyan - Chairman, Councillor L. Sweetland, Councillor D. Scate, Councillor S. Scott-Ely, Councillor A. Jones and Councillor K. Chrisp.

A. Marasco
Clerk to Berinsfield Parish Council

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declaration of Interests. To receive declaration of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. To receive the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15th October 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Bridge, seconded by Cllr Scate and AGREED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

No matters were raised.

5. To receive details of the income and expenditure to date – to be circulated at meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Chrisp and seconded by Cllr Scate that the income and expenditure to date, as circulated, be accepted.

6. To receive and consider the draft budget for financial year 2026-27.

A draft budget prepared by the RFO was presented to the Finance Committee for consideration which showed a rise in precept from £152,500 to £157,322.28. The Finance Committee when through each cost code, line by line and identified the following additional areas of spending:

- An additional £5,000 to the Pavilion Architect budget.
- An additional £1,400 to the Chairmans Allowance budget.
- An additional £2,500 to the Bus Shetler Maintenance budget.
- An additional £200 to the Defibrillator budget.
- An additional £150 to the Subscription budget.

Cllr Bridge then asked if the Finance Committee should go back through the budget, identifying areas that spending could be reallocated and attributed to the areas shown above. The Finance Committee then asked the RFO to show the rise in precept, if these figures were not reallocated and were shown as additional spending. The RFO explained that with the additional spending shown, the precept would rise from £152,500 to £166,572.28.

At this stage of the meeting, the Finance Committee Chair, Cllr Bunyan asked for a vote on whether the Finance Committee should recommend raising the precept from £152,500 to £166,572.28. A vote was held shown 5 votes in favour and 2 against. In line with the vote, it

was AGREED that the Finance Committee recommends a rise in precept to the full Parish Council from £152,500 to £166,572.28.

7. Section 137. The Committee is asked to note that the maximum amount that can be raised under Section 137 to provide for services that are not statutory powers and functions of the Parish Council is currently £11.10 per elector (£21,123.30). This sum includes funds allocated for grant aid in the draft budget.

The committee noted this information.

8. Any other financial/general purposes matters.
 - a) Village Map – The Clerk presented a draft of the Village Map from Lovell John for feedback from the councillors present. The Finance Committee were asked to point out any final changes. Councillors provided locations of additional bus stops and a footpath that is not on the Village Map. The Clerk agreed to ask for these final changes prior to the meeting of the Parish Council.
 - b) Bank Account Options – The Clerk presented a report to the Parish Council detailing options available to the Parish Council. The Finance Committee AGREED to recommend to the full Parish Council that Option B from the report, showing new accounts with Unity and Cooperative Banks be adopted.
 - c) Wreaths at War Memorial – Cllr Jones said it is usual that wreaths be removed when they start to lose the quality of their appearance, usually a month after Remembrance Day. It was AGREED to recommend to the full Parish Council that the Clerk arranges for their removal in line with this.
 - d) Planning Application – Cllr Jones said that a planning application had been submitted for 22 Pritchard Close and that all councillors should view it. It was AGREED that the Clerk would send this application to all councillors by email.
9. Date of next meeting – 25th February 2025 at 7.15pm.