

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held at 5.00 pm on

Tuesday 25 November 2025

The meeting was held via Teams.

Present: Mr Bonner (Chairman), Mrs Bramley, Mr Miller, Mr Palmer and Mr Shaxson.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 22 May 2025

The minutes were agreed by the members and will be signed in due course.

4. Budget 2025/26 review

The budget statement for the period ending 31 October 2025 was reviewed by the members and it was noted there was likely to be an underspend in the region of £10k. This has occurred as grants to the Community Hall have been offset against the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) restricted funds, thereby reducing the spend on standard grants. The Council will also have benefited from around £3.5k in interest by the year end.

The projected underspend is not an issue as the Council does need to replenish the reserves and so any underspend can be redirected to this at the year end, if necessary.

5. Standard grant applications 2026/27

The members reviewed the grants for 2026/27 and agreed they should be included in the Budget Proposal to be presented to the full Council on 18 December 2025. It was noted the Council holds the grants each year until specific projects are identified, this enables the item or service to be gifted to the organisations with the Council reclaiming the vat.

The members noted the balance of grant monies held on behalf of HCH (Harting Community Hall) was £2783.58. The WMPF balance was currently £nil.

There was a discussion about the uplift of the grants to HCH and WMPF, these have traditionally been increased by the CPI rate on 1 September. The members agreed the grants should be increased to £2830, this being an increase of 3.8% (rounded up to the nearest £10) in line with the CPI rate.

There was a discussion about increasing the other grants, but it was felt there was no evidence that more was required at this time.

The following proposals were made and agreed:

- i. To agree to recommend that the Council allocate the following grants in 2026/27
 - a. Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Fields - £2830 each

- b. Harting Parish hospital car scheme - £180
 - c. Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau - £300
 - d. Allotment rents - £25
 - e. The Parish Church and Congregational Church burial grants - £200 each
 - f. Henry Warren Hall insurance premium – up to £1850
 - g. Other applications received from organisations with local connections.
- ii. To agree, as part of their overall grants, to recommend that the Council also covers the cost of the insurance premiums for Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Field and the cost of a bookkeeper for the former.

6. Additional Grant applications

There were no additional grant requests.

7. CIL payments and spending

The CIL situation was noted. All CIL funds have currently been utilised leaving the balance available at nil.

CIL Summary to 31 March 2026

CIL received

Prior to October 2021	3,240.00
Oct-21	1,516.27
Apr-22	10,094.42
Apr-23	4,595.93
Oct-23	4,595.94
Oct-24	1,654.44
Total income	25,697.00

Less CIL projects offset

Fingerposts	4,756.27	Mar-22
Nyewood hall chairs	2,180.00	Sep-22
Nyewood hall tables	2,637.48	Sep-22
Nyewood hall defibrillator	1,000.00	Oct-22
Cycle rack	87.95	Mar-24
Solar panel project	570.02	Jul-25
Solar panel project	8,626.02	Aug-25
Solar panel project	5,839.26	Sep-25
Total expenditure	25,697.00	

Total available **0.00**

8. Budget 2026/27

Mr Bonner presented the proposed budget for 2026/27 (see appendix A), this was reviewed and agreed by the members. The proposed budget totals £64,506 an increase of £2506 (4.04%) on the previous year.

*The following proposal was agreed:
that the Committee agree to recommend the Budget for 2026/27 to the Full Council for adoption.*

9. Precept 2026/27

The members considered the options regarding the level of precept to be requested and the possible use of reserves. It was agreed the precept should be set at £62,500 a 0.81% increase on the previous year. The budget will be balanced by using £2006 from the reserves.

The increase for a Band D property will amount to £1.47 per annum.

*The following proposal was agreed:
that the Committee agree to recommend the level of precept to be requested from WSCC should be £62,500 for the year 2026/27.*

10. Interim Internal Audit

The interim Internal Audit had been carried out on the 3 October 2025, there were no concerns raised. The Clerk was thanked for her work in ensuring the Council remains compliant.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in March 2026 to consider the end of year situation.

The meeting closed at 5.57pm

Hall	2650.00	2720.00	0.00	2720.00	0.00	2830.00	110.00	4.04
S137 -	600.00	600.00	300.00	0.00	-300.00	300.00	-300.00	-50.00
WMPF	2650.00	2720.00	2720.00	0.00	0.00	2830.00	110.00	4.04
Churchyards	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00
Hospital car	180.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	-200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
Allotment rent	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Hall bookkeeping	0.00	1000.00	848.01	200.00	48.01	1000.00	0.00	0.00
WMPF insurance	1400.00	1500.00	0.00	1500.00	0.00	1600.00	100.00	6.67
Other grants	9400.00	6500.00	1000.00	2500.00	-3000.00	6500.00	0.00	0.00
Total Grants	17305.00	15665.00	5293.01	6920.00	-3451.99	15685.00	20.00	0.13
Contingency	1250.00	4405.00	0.00	0.00	-4405.00	5300.00	895.00	20.32
Increase to reserves					0.00	0.00		
Total Budget	56975.00	62000.00	27362.09	21152.20	-13485.71	64506.00	2506.00	4.04
Less grants						64506.00		
Add earmarked & CIL spends			99412.33					
Total spend			126774.42					
Precept		62000.00				62500.00	500.00	0.81
Met from reserves		0.00				2006.00	2506.00	4.04
		62000				64506		

Although the budget and precept have increased by 4.04 % this will not be reflected in the increase to individual household council tax payments. The proposed Band D Tax Base for 2026/27 has decreased to 776.2 from 784.3 in 2025/26 this is as a result of a reduction in the second homes premium. If the Council uses £2006 from the reserves and requests a precept of £62500 this will be an increase of .81% on the previous year's precept.