

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Finance Committee

Minutes of meeting: Tuesday 30th December 2024
Whittle Hall Community Centre

Chair: Cllr T Williams
Present: Cllr P Watson
Cllr N Cotter
Cllr S Pennington

In Attendance: K Carter (Clerk)

1. To receive and approve any apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Simpson.

2. To approve the minutes of previous meeting 5/12/2023.

The draft minutes were moved and accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed as such.

***FINANCE/2025/1:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2024 as a true record.*

3. To consider the budget and precept level for 2025-26 and make a final recommendation to full Council.

Initial figures had been circulated to the full Parish Council meeting in December 2024, with a proposal from the Finance Committee for an increase to the precept. Operating costs to manage the council's open spaces and community centres have increased, and the changes to employers NI contributions from April 2025 will also impact the council's finances. A small increase in the precept will be essential to cover these additional costs, but this doesn't include a budget for new community or landscaping projects.

Hire rates for the community centres will be subject to an increase to alleviate the increasing costs but have been kept as low as possible to avoid undue difficulties for customers.

The council has earmarked reserves for the Sankey station renovation project (£80k) and the Parish Playing Field drainage project (£80k). The Football Foundation has asked GSPC to increase the match funding for the Parish Playing Field; without this it is unlikely the Football Foundation will give the necessary funding to install the drainage. The Parish Estates Committee is also looking at options to relocate the grounds depot from its temporary home at Whittle Hall Community Centre to a larger, more suitable site. It is anticipated that the council will need to source some external funding or borrowing for this, but there will be a need for upfront costs and possibly match funding. If Childs Wood Field is a suitable location, the council will look to landscape the remaining space as community gardens. The Finance Committee therefore proposed a further increase to the precept to be able to set aside funds for this project. An increase from £48.59 per annum to £55.88 per annum per Band D property was proposed. This is a 15% increase, but the precept remains relatively low for residents in real terms. It is an increase of £7.29 per annum (61 pence per month) for Band D properties.

The full council agreed this in principle in December with time to assess the proposal and ask questions or further detail from the Finance Committee. None have been forthcoming, and the committee therefore finalised its recommendation.



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FINANCE/2025/2: To recommend acceptance of the draft budget for 2025-26 (Accounts & Audit Regs 2015, Reg 3).

FINANCE/2025/3: To recommend a £7.29 (15%) increase in annual precept level for Band D properties for 2025-26 (from £48.59 to £55.88 per annum) giving a total precept of £622,654 (LGFA 1992, Part 1, s41).

4. To scrutinise financial expenditure arising since the last meeting, including payments by Direct Debit.

A list of payments to be made had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following payments were considered and approved.

Presented By	Description	Amount, £
Sankey Seniors	Donation Christmas Dinner	200.00
WODAC	Donation Christmas Appeal	250.00
Great Sankey Primary	Donation Christmas Appeal	100.00
Wild Tribe	50% deposit Face Painting Fun Day	165.00
Kathryn Carter	Reimbursement café baked goods	24.10
Amy Doyle	Circus skills deposit – Fun Day	200.00
MKM	Bricks for TP Garden	918.00
MKM	Bricks for TP Garden	39.48
Trade UK	Clear Adhesive – Centre Maintenance	7.89
Travis Perkins	Cement	126.06
WBC	X2 benches and plaques	2,800.00
MKM	Breaker Hire for TP Garden	31.72
MKM	Building Material for TP Garden	172.15
Brookmeade Building Ltd	Replacement panels – HM	1,806.00
360 Landscape	Sand and stone – TP Garden	156.30
Roller Shutter	Repair to Roller Shutter at TP	168.00
WBC	Service Charge – HM	382.89
MKM	Building materials – TP Garden	59.20
MKM	Building materials – TP Garden	42.30
MKM	Building material – TP Garden	89.42
B&B Hygiene Ltd	Cleaning Supplies	343.80
Trade UK	Rubber Mallet	21.98
MKM	Concrete top edging – TP garden	14.87
Holly Oak Tree Services	Removal of windblown willow	1,080.00
J. Riley	Onsite WIFI support – TP	95.00
T&O Harrison	Green waste	30.00
Equals card	Petty cash top-up	514.92
	TOTAL	£

FINANCE/2025/4: To authorise all payments listed (under LGA 1976 s19 or LGA 1972 s15(5), s101, 111, 112, 133, 142 or 137).

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The following direct debits on the Council's account during November were also checked:

Novuna	01/11/2024	Electric Van	Lease	456.20
SSE Energy	01/11/2024	GAS	WH	32.33
SSE Energy	01/11/2024	GAS	HL	41.08
Lex Autolease	01/11/2024	Council Electric Van	Lease	851.98
Water Plus	01/11/2024	Water charges	BB	44.69
Water Plus	01/11/2024	Water charges	HM	50.95
Water Plus	01/11/2024	Water charges	WH	80.38
BT	06/11/2024	WIFI/Telephone	HM	73.40
Peninsula	11/11/2024	H&S Service	H&S	200.93
SSE Energy	11/11/2024	Electricity	WH	2013.89
SSE Energy	11/11/2024	Electricity	HM	64.52
Global 4 Comm	14/11/2024	Office 365/email	Office	424.14
Water Plus	19/11/2024	Water charges	HL	101.70
Water Plus	21/11/2024	Water charges	TP	77.13
Utility Warehouse	29/11/2024	Mobile phones	Office	53.40
Service Fee Charge	30/11/2024	Service Charge	Office	21.75
			TOTAL	£6057.60

5. To consider any quotes received and authorise or make recommendations to full Council where appropriate.

Quote 1: for the supply and installation of v-mesh fencing around the site perimeter at Bewsey Barn Community Centre. Three quotes had been obtained ranging from £16,060 to £25,779.50 +VAT. The lowest quote was accepted.

FINANCE/2025/5: *To accept the quote from Secure Fencing for 280m of 2m high v-mesh fencing for Bewsey Barn Community Centre. To include 1nr single leaf pedestrian gate and 1nr double leaf vehicle gate with locks (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).*

Quote 2: for replacement boiler at Hood Lane Community Centre. A quote of £2,250 had been provided by the council's plumber for supply and installation of an Alpha E Tec 38kW combi boiler with 13-year warranty. This is in line with comparative online quotes and was therefore accepted.

FINANCE/2025/6: *To accept the quote from Steve Mahon Plumbing of £2,250 for a replacement combi boiler for Hood Lane Community Centre (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).*

6. To consider requests for financial assistance

A request had been received from Jack & Jill preschool for a donation towards their Christmas party but had unfortunately been received too late to be considered at the December Finance meeting. The request is therefore being made retrospectively.

FINANCE/2025/7: *To give a donation of £100 to Jack and Jill Preschool towards their Christmas party (LGA 1972 s137).*

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7. Budget 2024-25: to scrutinise documentation and when satisfied as to correctness to sign off financial reports and bank reconciliations for November.

The bank reconciliation and budget monitoring pages for November were considered and accepted. Checks on financial transactions were carried out prior to the meeting by Cllrs Williams and Cotter.

***FINANCE/2025/8:** To accept the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring pages for November 2024 (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 reg 4).*

8. To authorise payment of wages, tax and ERNIC for December.

The list of wages to be paid was considered and authorised. Total Employment Costs (including salaries, pensions & HMRC) were £21,408.76.

***FINANCE/2025/9:** To authorise payment of wages and HMRC costs (£21,408.76 total) for December 2024 (LGA 1972 s112).*