

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DERRY HILL & STUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE
COMMITTEE
HELD AT LANSDOWNE HALL, DERRY HILL
MONDAY 23rd JUNE 2025

CALNE WITHOUT COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

Present (P): Apologies (A): Did Not Attend (X)

John Barnes (Chair)	P	Bruce MacInnes	P	Gavin McHale	P
Vaughan Mizon	A	Philippa Todd	P	Andrew Turton	P

143/25/FC. Election of chair of committee.

Cllr Barnes opened the meeting,

Cllr Barnes was proposed and seconded to be chair of the finance committee.

It was unanimously resolved to elect Councillor John Barnes to be the Chair of the Finance committee.

144/25/FC .Apologies

To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mizon,

The apologies and reasons for absence were unanimously approved.

145/25/FC. Public participation/ Correspondence

145.1/25/FC Public participation

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.

145.2/25/FC Correspondence

For the Clerk to report any correspondence not circulated.

There was nothing to add at this point of the meeting.

146/25/FC. Declarations of Interest

Declarations from Councillors of any disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Orders 13b) or other interest (Standing Orders 13c) in respect of matters being considered by the Council.

Cllr Turton noted that he was on the Derry Hill & Studley Community Heartbeat Committee.

147/25/FC. Chairman Announcements

The chairman had no announcements to make.

148/25/FC. Q1 Budget review.

To review the [budget spend](#) of Q1 and including up to June 16th 2025

The RFO outlined the budget spend for the committees information.

149/25/FC. Large Grant Request – Lansdowne Hall

To consider the [grant request](#) for £5000 and additional information additional sheet and additional information received against the scoring matrix and make recommendations to take to full council.

Budget; Community facilities

Proposed to discuss the grant request prior to deciding the future of grant funding.

A representative from the village hall committee explained the grant application the timescales for the works and the history of the application and roof work completed to date.

Received three quotations. Ranging from £35,000 -£42000.

The committee asked the applicant questions about the proposals.

Q; What happens if more work is found than thought,

A; The preferred quote mitigates for additional roof trusses as required.

Cllr MacInnes joined the meeting at 20.08.

The councillors assessed the application against the scoring matrix.

CII – Ref number -	Scoring (1-5) – Criteria given below	Weighting – Importance to Community/Council	Total Score
Alignment with Neighbourhood Plan	4	5	20
Community Benefits	5	5	25
Environmental Benefit Impacts	3	3	9
Measuring Benefits	5	3	15
Legacy Potential and Impact / Sustainability	4	3	12
Funding / Costs	4	3	12
Legislative requirements to be satisfied	4	3	12
Project Management and Risk	3	4	12
Total			117

It was observed that many previous grants over the years were ‘nice to haves’ rather than a grant that had the potential of a negative impact on the community if the grant wasn’t given.

It was noted that the impact of not doing the works in August would have a big impact on the users of the hall.

There was a suggestion to give less than requested and keeping a discussion with the hall committee. It was noted that timescales for the works and timings of council meetings would make this a difficult option.

The committee discussed at length the balance between awarding one grant the full amount of grant funding available in one financial year to one applicant. It was noted that supporting this application, in turn supported the many other community groups and regular users of the hall and therefore would have a big impact on the community.

Proposal; Support the application and recommend to full council the full £5000 is awarded to the Lansdowne Village Hall.

It was approved unanimously to recommend to full council that the grant funding of £5000 be awarded to the Lansdowne Village Hall.

150/25/FC. Future Grant Funding

To review the attached [report](#) of the future of grant funding

Recommendation; that the Committee considers the options and determines any changes to the Grant Application Process which it considers appropriate to recommend to Council.

Cllr Barnes explained the paper, the councillors requested to consider the Lansdowne Village Hall application.

Recommendation; recommend Option 3 to Council, for implementation in future years, assuming that Council accepts the recommendation to award the Lansdowne Hall grant request, and noting that it may still be possible to have a Tranche 2 Window in the New Year, if Finance Committee is able to allocate additional funding from budget savings elsewhere.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend that we propose to move forward with option 3,

151/25/FC. Solar Farm

To review the attached [report](#)

Request; The Committee is asked to consider the options outlined above and to recommend a preferred option to the Council to guide discussions with Eden Renewables.

The Councillors discussed the options at length.

It was proposed that options 1 & 2 be our preferred option to reduce costs. Other proposals will increase costs being removed from the fund.

There was not a seconder for this proposal.

It was proposed to recommend option 2 as being the preferred option.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend to full council option 2

152/25/FC. Cost Codes.

To review the attached [report](#)

It is recommended that Finance Committee approves the budgets set out above for the Council's Cost Codes for 2025/26.

It was identified that we need to remove £1000 from infrastructure to mirror the VE day road closure.

It was unanimously approved to amend the budget codes, subject to the minor amendment discussed regarding the infrastructure budget code.

153/25/FC . Investment Strategy

Review of Parish Council [investment strategy](#) alongside the [bank balances](#) to discuss any movement of money required.

Recommendation; To approve the investment strategy and recommendation to close the Nationwide Bank Account.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the investment strategy and close the Nationwide Bank account.

154/25/FC. Maintenance reserve

To consider the [report](#) on a new maintenance reserve

Recommendation; Councillors discuss the proposal to create a maintenance reserve initially set at £3000 for the financial year 25/26.

There was a discussion about the proposal. It was noted that the playground reserve was designed to be build up over the years in preparation for maintenance and replacements. It was agreed that keeping a maintenance reserve a £1500 would be a good proposal.

Recommendation; that we build up the playground reserve and only top up the maintenance reserve.

It was unanimously resolved to create a maintenance reserve to be topped up each year.

155/25/FC. Update on Asset management

To receive an update on works required to assets and identify and further work required. Well House, - It was noted that the finial had been made and was ready to be refixed. The roofer who previously quoted for the works is returning to requote as the work is slightly more than quoted for due to recent storms causing a bit more damage.

Petty Acre Play Equipment – It was noted that the disclaimer sign had been damaged and destroyed. It was agreed to redesign the sign change the orientation and get quotes for a stronger metal sign.

There was a brief discussion about the noticeboards and the suggestion that the nameplates on the top of the noticeboards are replaced.

156/25/FC. Agree date and time of next meeting

Monday 1st September 2025.

The meeting closed at 21.42