MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DERRY HILL & STUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD AT LANSDOWNE HALL, DERRY HILL
MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2026

DERRY HILL & STUDLEY PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE
Present (P): Apologies (A): Did Not Attend (X)

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

244/26/FC Apologies
To receive apologies.

All committee members were present.

245/26/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.

No declarations were made in respect of the applications.

246/26/FC. Chairman Announcements
Cllr Barnes explained the process of the meeting and the grant application. He informed the attendees at the meeting that this meeting will take the time to review the applications and then make recommendations to full council on 12th October 2026.

247/26/FC. To consider the small grant applications from
247.1/26/FC To consider the small grant funding request for £950 Derry Hill & Studley Youth Club

Representatives of the youth club provided a background to the application. They noted that they are in a period of trying to grow the youth club again after a period of uncertainty. The club has run sporadically over the last few years which means that attendance and subsequently funds have been low.
They hope to plan some key sessions (Christmas disco) to help draw more members to the group.
Costs are kept very low, the income from the tuck shop tends to cover the hall fee meaning there is little left over to replace equipment which is starting to need replacing. They hope in another year memberships will have grown and the club will be in a much stronger position.

Councillors then asked questions/ made comments.

It was clarified that the age range is year 6 to 8 (10 year old to 13 years old)
There was a query about the deposits and the money held in the account, it was noted that the group held a reserve for unforeseen costs.
It was noted that a lot of the issues discussed in the application would not be a problem once membership numbers were reestablished and this application was almost to 'pump prime' the group to give them the chance to get onto a better footing then allowing members to fund it themselves.
It was noted without these funds the group may not be able to continue.

247.2/26/FC To consider the small grant funding request for £1000 from St Johns Ambulance
Two representatives from the local branch of St Johns Ambulance attended to present the application.

It was noted that the group used to do various community courses, then moved away from this, but are coming back full circle to give public awareness, giving local community groups skills to save lives. It was stated that getting an ambulance can take a long time, so looking to give community skills to help people before the ambulance arrives.
They are looking to put on 4 courses, with a max of 30 people per session.
Can do a bespoke course if required.
The aim is to ensure everyone gets the help they need in a crisis before the medics arrive.
People are dying because people don't have the skills.

Councillors then asked questions/ comments.
There was a query about how else money is raised, it was established that money also comes from when events hire the services of SJA. This money comes into the organisation to help support this sort of project.
Another question around how full the sessions have got, was shown that 15-20 people have benefitted from training each session.
It was noted that they were asking for a lot more money than other parishes had provided, it was noted that they may have asked for more money and been given less.
There was a discussion about the courses heartbeat put on and how disappointing the numbers attending can be.

The cost of a single course was clarified, £371 to put on one course.

247.3/26/FC To consider the small grant funding request for £650 from Wilts & Berks Canal
Explained a little bit about the project.
A representative of the canal trust explained the purpose of the grant request and some background into the Wilts and Berks canal project.
Explained that need to pump water from the canal because they don't have a water supply to the canal, this pump would make it easier for volunteers to get the water where it needs to be.

The councillors asked questions/ comments.

It was stated that they have a pump that isn't efficient and doesn't do what we need it to do. And a big pump that is too difficult to manoeuvre.
Water is needed for mixing concrete, cement, wetting the clay, move lots of stuff around site that water is needed for.
A query was asked about the amount of money held in reserves. It was established that the accounts provided were for the whole Wilts and Berks canal trust, not this smaller branch (Melksham, Chippenham and Calne branch)
VM- Asking for a grant, but have a sizable amount in an investment fund. Clarified that is for the whole trust not just this MCC trust.
Many volunteers live in the parish, but come from all over, Chippenham, Melksham and Calne.

Recommendation; the committee to consider the applications and make recommendations for Full Council to consider at the next full council meeting.
Budget; Community Grants (precept)

248/26/FC To consider the large grant application.
To consider the large grant request for £5000 From Lansdowne Hall.

Three representatives from the Lansdowne Hall presented their application.
The group requests £5000 to replace the front door, over recent years there have been problems getting it to lock as the door reacts to weather conditions.
A new door with an aluminium frame, will keep level access, increase energy efficiency and will last longer.
The management committee are finding a lot of things are starting to be needed after 25 years and will be looking for a lot of funding from many sources over the next few years.

They know they will need to replace other fire doors and windows, heating the hall gone from £2000 to £8000, so it's time to move away from gas heating and do things to improve the energy efficiency of the hall.

The councillors had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions;
It was clarified that this is one part of a 10-year plan to improve the efficiency of the building. It was stated that you can improve the heating as much as you like but if the building isn't insulated properly, it's a waste of effort.

There were concerns raised about the fact that this has been a problem for several years, but no financial provision appears to have been made for it.
The applicants responded noting that there had been a major unexpected repair (roof) in the last year and that had hit reserves

The 10-year plan was discussed and asking where the £80,000 would be coming from, it was noted that grants were being applied for, but these were for bigger projects, and the doors have become too immediate to be included in those grants.

It was further noted that the hall received the entirety of the councils grant budget in the last financial year.

The committee then scored the application using the matrix system.

CII – Ref number -	Scoring (1-5) – Criteria given below	Weighting – Importance to Community/Council	Total Score
Alignment with Neighbourhood Plan	5	5	25
Community Benefits	5	5	25/50
Environmental Benefit Impacts	4	3	12/62
Measuring Benefits	3	3	9/71
Legacy Potential and Impact / Sustainability	5	3	15/86
Funding / Costs	5	3	15/101
Legislative requirements to be satisfied	5	3	15/116
Project Management and Risk	4	4	16/132
Total			132

Recommendation; the committee to consider the application and make recommendations for Full Council to consider at the next full council meeting.
Budget; Community Grants (precept)

249/26/FC Discussion regarding recommendations
The committee having heard all the groups present their applications discussed each in turn having regard to the £5000 available for grants.

249.1/26/FC Youth club;
General discussion; The councillors agreed that this was a positive facility for the community and would like to support the grant request for the full £950.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend to full council a grant £950 to DH&S Youth club,

249.2/26/FC St Johns Ambulance
General discussion, it was noted that the committee supported the project but not the amount requested. It was proposed to support the costs for one session £371 and that the council could help promote the session using inSPIRE magazine.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend to full council a grant of £371 to St Johns Ambulance for one session of first aid training.

249.3/26/FC Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

General discussion, the committed agreed that this would be a useful piece of kit and that they support the request for £650.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend to full council a grant of £650 to wilts and berks canal trust.

249.4/26/FC Lansdowne Hall
General discussion; The committee were reluctant to give the full amount as this would mean only one recipient had received funding for two years running.
The importance of the work was agreed, it was suggested that the remainder of the grant fund could allocated to the hall after the small grant requests had been resolved.
There was further discussion on if a reserve amount should be held back by the council in case of 'emergency' requests later in the year.

It was resolved by majority to recommend to full council a grant of £3029 to the Lansdowne Hall.

250/26/FC To agree date and time of the next meeting,
Monday 7th December 2026

The meeting closed at 20.51