



Darnhall Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 5.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs R Strachan (Chair), R Lee, and M Sherry
Dr M Bailey (Clerk/RFO)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Strachan was elected as Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were noted.

4. MINUTES – 17TH JANUARY 2025

The minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 17th January 2025 were approved by Members.

5. MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were raised from the minutes.

6. ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

The following issues were considered by the Committee: -

- *Ledger (1.4.25-30.9.25)*
The above ledger was noted by the Committee. The overall position is as expected but projected overspend overall.
- *Budget Monitoring Report (April-Sept 2025) and Receipts and Payments Summary (April-Sept 2025)*
Members noted these reports.

In terms of expenditure – the following points were made: -

- Salaries – a projected overspend is reported, mainly due to national pay awards.
 - Payroll – an overspend was reported
 - Various – overspends on internal audit, insurance and website
 - Contracts – Members agreed to review utilities costs, insurance (for Parish Council and Village Hall) and payroll services
 - Reserves – Members agreed to look for a bank account for reserves with higher interest rates
-
- *Budget Setting 2026/27*
Members noted the documents relating to budget setting for 2026/27.

Members considered the potential for income and funding and agreed to explore options. In terms of expenditure/income:

- Salaries – to increase budget to £5,500.00
- Payroll – to increase budget to £440.00
- Insurance – to increase to £600.00
- Affiliation Fees – to decrease to £75.00
- Village Hall – noted concerns about future bridge closures and other risks including utility costs and others, but it was agreed to keep the expenditure budget at £9,000 and the income budget £4,000 (net budget of £5,000)
- Miscellaneous – agreed to keep income budget at £2,500 and expenditure at £500

Members further noted the following: -

- Taxbase for the parish had decreased to 99.3 from 99.7
- Having noted these points, Members agreed to increase the precept to £9,370.00
- This would represent an increase of £4.09 across the year for Band D properties.

These changes result in the following position for 2026/27: -

- Overall expenditure budget of £17,135.00
- Overall income budget of £6,500.00
- Net budget of £10,635.00 (increase of £370.00 from 2025/26)

The following is therefore recommended to Council in January 2025.

- That a budget of **£10,635.00** be approved; and
- The Clerk is authorised to request CWAC for precept of **£9,370.00**

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were considered.

- Village Hall – it was **AGREED** to recommend early payment to Stephen Redmond for work done on the Hall.
- Village Hall – it was **AGREED** to apply for funding from Rural Community Spaces for phase one of the works and from Awards for All for phase two.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed to meet in March 2026.

Meeting closed at 6.39pm.

Chair