HADDENHAM
Parish Council

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MINUTES
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 23rd February 2026, 20:00
Conference Room, Haddenham Village Hall and remotely via Zoom

Present: Cllr. Kidby, Cllr. Brown, Cllr. Thawley, and Cllr. Truesdale (Chair), Cllr. Wheeler
Clerk: Ms. Gilbert
Committee and Communications Officer: Mr Fox
Finance and Administration Officer: Mrs Little
Members of the Public: None

Joining remotely via Zoom
Members of the pubic: None

F26 21 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Desmier and Cllr Smith.

F26 22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There were no requests to participate.

F26 23 MINUTES
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2025 were **AGREED** as a true record and signed.

F26 24 ACTION PLAN
The Action Plan for 2025-30 and progress updates to the end of quarter 3 were reviewed and **NOTED**.

F26 25 FINANCES
(i) The quarter three finance reports for 2025-26 were reviewed in detail. Most budget lines remain within budget. Some of the facilities budgets have been restructured following the move to in-house grounds maintenance in September 2024. Several new expenditure codes have been created to separate fuel, equipment purchases, servicing, and workshop costs, while some historic codes now capture a narrower range of items.
The main variances were:
- Sports pitch maintenance, which is over budget due to additional work recommended through the pitch-power grant process.

Initials
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- Van lease, which overspent due to additional charges from the hire company; the Council has since opted to purchase its own vehicle.
- Dog bins, where prior-year invoicing errors by Bucks Council resulted in an incorrect budget being set.
- Facilities training, which increased due to new staff, though some costs are offset by income from hosting courses.
- Income from pavilion is reduced this year due to the reduced cost of electricity, 70% of which is paid by The Whistler
- Pitch hire is lower than last year due to the absence of a senior football team at the Airfield.
- Interest on investments continues to exceed the conservatively set budget.
- Tree work remains under budget, with further work expected in Q4.

The receipt of the second precept in September payment was **NOTED**.

It was also noted that the Council has still not been invoiced for street lighting energy since January 2025, so current expenditure is based on accruals from earlier bills, and will be in excess of £20k. This has been reported to the Ombudsman who has completed their investigation and upheld the complaint. The result of their findings has been circulated. Engie are required to put in place 5 resolutions to put things right, including issuing the back dated bills (note charges cannot be made for energy consumption over a year old) and paying £100 compensation by 10th March 2026. Renewal of the electricity contract has been delayed whilst the billing issue is resolved.

(ii) It was **NOTED** that the bank reconciliations for Q3 were checked against the bank statements prior to the meeting by Cllr. Truesdale and no issues were found.

(iii) The Interim Internal Audit for 2025/26 had been carried out in January and the Auditor's report was received. The findings Auditor's findings and the Clerk's responses were noted.

F26 26 PARISH COUNCIL MOBILE PHONE APPLICATION

Mr. Fox provided a brief overview of the pros and cons of introducing a new mobile phone application for the Parish Council. It hoped that it will increase community engagement and includes the option for residents to receive notifications about the ongoing works of the Parish Council. Other Parish and Town Councils were contacted for feedback on their use of the application. Generally, positive feedback was received. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will proceed with the next steps for introducing the application.

F26 27 REVIEW OF POLICIES

The following policies were reviewed and it was **AGREED** that the the proposed changes, they will be **ADOPTED**:

(i) Internal controls
(ii) Investment strategy
(iii) Adults at risk
(iv) Child protection policy
(v) Dignity at work
(vi) Volunteers policy
(vii) Public participation at meetings

F26 28 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

There were no confidential items.

F26 29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th April 2026.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 21:08

Signed: _____ Date: 19th October 2026

Chair