

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026 IN CAPEL PARISH HALL

Present: Mr Salter, Mr McLachlan, Mr Ball, Mrs Schryver the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.
In attendance: Mr Palmer, Mrs Emma Jaques and Mr Ben Ashwood

1. Apologies: Mr Ransome

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Matters Arising: None

4. Questions from Members of the Public:

Capel Alms Houses

Mr Ashwood and Mrs Jaques had been invited to attend the meeting and give an update on the current refurbishment of the vacant apartment and any future project.

The Committee was informed that the current refurbishment works would be completed within the next few weeks. The total cost will be close on budget, totally £41,000. The Trustees can now interview prospective tenants. It was confirmed that any vacancies are open to applicants living in the Parish of Capel or those with family living the Parish

The Committee was informed that there is a likelihood of another apartment becoming vacant in the near future, and refurbishments works will start again. Grant applications have been submitted to secure fundings before any works begin.

The Committee asked to be kept up to date with future works, when the possibility of a further grant would be considered.

The possibility of selling off land adjacent to the Alms Houses was mentioned but these Title Deeds are not dealt with by the Land Registry but with the Charity Commission. This could be a long-term possibility.

The Chair of the Finance Committee thanked the Trustees for their update and asked if they could forward a summary of future works, with costs and timing.

5. Profit and Loss to 31 December 2025:

31 December 2025	NS&I Reserve Account	£610.89
31 December 2025	NatWest Reserve Account	£99,780.90.
31 December 2025	NatWest Current Account	£166.04
31 December 2025	High Interest Account	£20,087.55

Mr Salter addressed the meeting stating that with three months left of this financial year, the Parish Council had 28% of the budget remaining. The Parish Council should finish this current year with a balance of about £80,000.00.

The Committee discussed the interest rates of the bank accounts and agreed that more funds should be transferred from the Reserve Account into the High Interest Account. A sum of £50,000 will be transferred.

At present one third of the Parish maintenance budget is remaining, but this could be fully utilised if the winter is bad.

The Assistant Clerk's salary was mentioned and although this had not included in the 2025/26 budget, the Finance Committee was confident these costs could be accommodated.

Repairs to the Parish Hall roof were discussed. An estimate of £10,000 had been received but a further two estimates will be required before any decision can be made.

The Committee mentioned the CAGG Campaign and the legal challenge to the recently agreed extension to the Gatwick Airport. The Committee would like to consider assisting financially but an update on the current financial situation will be needed before any decision is made.

It was agreed repairs to the roof and any decision on a donation to GACC should be included on the agenda of the next Full Parish Council meeting.

6. Grant Application – Capel Choral Society

A grant application had been submitted by the Capel Choral Society. The application was for £400 and had been submitted with all necessary financial statements.

The Committee agreed the Society had never asked for funding before and as the Society included members from the whole Parish, the grant was approved and would now be put before the Full Parish Council meeting for a final decision.

It was agreed that funds should continue to be earmarked for

- Parish Assets
- Public Works Loan repayment.
- Solar panels
- Solar Activated speed limit signs
- Trig Street project
- Upgrading Children's playground

7 Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 05 May 2026 in Capel Parish Hall