

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mr Salter, Mr McLachlan, Mr Ball, Mrs Schryver the Clerks.
In attendance: Mr Palmer

1. **Apologies:** Mr Ransome
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Questions from Members of the Public:** None
5. **Profit and Loss to 30 April 2026:**

30 April 2026	NS&I Reserve Account	£623.19
30 April 2026	NatWest Reserve Account	£55,497.91
30 April 2026	NatWest Current Account	£798.11
30 April 2026	High Interest Account	£70,531.92

Mr Salter addressed the meeting reminding the Councillors that the end of year balances had not incorporated the payments due for tree works and parish hall roof repairs. In future any substantial invoices received toward the year end should be passed for payment without delay. Mr Salter suggested that when the precept for 2027/28 is discussed, Councillors must be made aware of the larger than average invoices paid in April 2026 and take these payments into consideration for a true end of year balance to be realised. Unbudgeted spending on repairs to the Parish Hall roof and a donation to Capel Alms Houses were highlighted.

Mr Salter suggested that in future the Finance Committee should have an additional meeting during March each year, allowing for any outstanding invoices to be discussed and called in for payment to show a true end of year balance.

6 **Grant to KSS Air Ambulance**

The Parish Council had received a request for a financial grant from the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Charity. Councillors were reminded that the Charity had received a £500 grant from the Parish Council over the past two years. Councillors agreed that this was a reasonable payment but taking into consideration the current costs of maintaining the fleet, Councillors unanimously agreed a grant of £550.00.

7 **Village Signs/Gateways for Capel**

Councillors were reminded that the Capel Show has agreed to pay £500 toward the purchase and installation of Capel village signs. At the last meeting, it was agreed that all four entrances into the village should be included; The Street north and south; the junction of Vicarage and Temple Lanes and the junction of the A24 and Coles Lane.

Previous information had been received agreeing the outline of the village sign and a cost. The cost last year was £525 per sign. An updated cost will now be obtained. Surrey County Council will also be contacted, asking for permission to install the sign on their land on the A24/Coles Lane junction.

8 **Update on Fixed Asset Register**

The Parish Council has recently had the Fixed Asset Register costs of rebuilding Parish property updated. The work has been undertaken by an independent estate valuer. These figures have been forwarded to Zurich Insurance to ensure the Parish Council's insurance policy is correct. However, the total of the Fixed Asset Register included on the AGAR cannot include these updated values. The Fixed Asset Register giving the rebuild values will be posted on the Parish Council's website.

9 Review Financial Regulations

Councillors were reminded the Financial Regulations need to be updated, reviewed and approved. Information will be circulated to all Councillors prior to the May 2026 Full Parish Council meeting.

10 Projects ear-marked for future funding:

• Trig Street project

Councillors were reminded of previous discussion regarding this project. It was agreed that although it will continue to be included as an ear-marked project, no indication of costs can be allocated. The project is unlikely to go forward now the brick works has closed, and the full support of Newdigate Parish Council.

• Repayment of Public Works Loan

It was agreed that this repayment should continue to be included as a funding project.

• Upgrade children's playground, Capel

The Councillors were made aware that residents were posting negative statements relating to the condition of the playground on the Village Facebook page. It was disappointing that these comments had not been channelled directly to the Parish Council.

After discussion it was agreed

- Ask Wicksteed to visit the site again, and give an up-to-date cost to refurbish the playground safely
- Ensure the safety surface is still fit for purpose
- Possibly repaint the existing equipment
- Maybe purchase one or two pieces of equipment now, using the grants already received from Gatwick Community Fund and Capel Youth Club.
- Or purchase a single piece of equipment for the use of disabled children

The Councillors agreed that if the residents were able to undertake some fund raising for this project, the Parish Council would match fund up to a value of £25,000. Information will be posted in the Capel and Beare Green Parish magazine.

To ensure any future works on the playground meet all health and safety regulations due to the playgrounds close proximity to the cricket ground, representatives from Capel Cricket Club will be invited to attend the May Full Parish Council meeting.

11 Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 07 September 2026 in Capel Parish Hall after the Planning committee meeting