

ST CLEER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting of St Cleer Parish Council held online on 09.09.26 at 18:30.

As this committee meeting was conducted online, no resolutions were made. All proposals and recommendations recorded below are subject to ratification by full council.

The meeting commenced at 18:36 and ended at 20:10

Reference	Item
2026.09.09-10	Persons present/apologies: To note persons present and receive apologies for absence. Cllrs Jon Prinn, Susan Harbord (Chair), Raymond Pearce (from 18:45), James Emuss. Clerk, Anita James.
2026.09.09-11	Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members/Dispensations - Disclosable pecuniary interests - Non-registrable interests - Declarations of gifts - Applications for dispensations Cllr Harbord is the treasurer of the Memorial Hall and is responsible for bookings, which could be deemed to be in competition with the hiring of the pavilion. A dispensation was granted by the Clerk to allow her to be present during discussions but not to vote on any recommendations. Cllr Harbord is also treasurer of the youth club, which hires the pavilion, and Cleerway Community Church, which was awarded a grant by the Parish Council last year.
2026.09.09-12	To REVIEW AND APPROVE previous F&GP meeting minutes 24 June 2026 Cllr Sue Harbord proposed recommending acceptance of the minutes of 24 June 2026 to full council, seconded by Cllr Jon Prinn. The committee supported the recommendation to full council.
2026.09.09-13	To RECEIVE the budget monitoring report and RECOMMEND to full council for approval. The Clerk went through the Xero budget variance report in detail. The report covered all income and expenditure for the period 01/04/26 to 31/08/26 against the 2026/27 budget. The Clerk noted that income from investments was unlikely to reach the £2,000 included in the budget. Cllr Sue Harbord offered to investigate higher-interest savings accounts. Action: Cllr Sue Harbord to investigate higher-interest accounts and report back to the Finance Committee at the next meeting. Cllr Sue Harbord proposed recommending approval of the budget monitoring report to full council, seconded by Cllr Raymond Pearce. The committee supported the recommendation.
2026.09.09-14	To RECEIVE an update on the earmarked reserves and the financial disposition of funds as of 31 August 2026 and to RECOMMEND to full council for approval. The Clerk illustrated the earmarked reserves available on 01/04/26, any expenditure from the earmarked reserves up to 31/08/26, and the disposition of earmarked reserves and bank balances as of 31 August 2026. The Clerk noted that the general reserve was only £23,179, which is below the three-month minimum specified in the investment policy, but the second half of the precept had been received into the bank on 3 September.

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	Cllr Sue Harbord proposed recommending approval of the earmarked reserves and disposition of funds report as of 31/08/26 to full council, seconded by Cllr Raymond Pearce. The committee supported the recommendation.
2026.09.09-15	To CONSIDER grant applications: A Pentiddy Community Woodland - £326 for a welcome sign B St Cleer General Cemetery - £1,500 annual grass cutting and general maintenance to the Chapel building (in budget) Cllrs discussed the request for a donation of £326 for a welcome sign from Pentiddy Community Woodland in some detail. However, they felt that the Parish Council had already made a grant to the Pentiddy Woodland area (although not to the Pentiddy Community Woodland organisation) and did not consider that the grant would be of demonstrable benefit to St Cleer Parish residents. A Cllr Raymond Pearce proposed that the Council does not approve a grant to Pentiddy Community Woodland. This was seconded by Cllr Jon Prinn. The committee supported the recommendation to full council. The committee discussed and supported a grant to St Cleer General Cemetery, which had been budgeted for. B Cllr Raymond Pearce proposed recommending a grant of £1,000 to St Cleer General Cemetery, seconded by Cllr James Emuss. The committee supported the recommendation to full council.
2026.09.09-16	To CONSIDER a request from the facilities contractor for an increase in their hourly rate and make a RECOMMENDATION to full council. The request was discussed in some detail; the committee recommended increasing the facilities contractor's hourly rate from £18 to £20 per hour and offering a revised 12-month contract commencing on 11 September 2026. Cllr Raymond Pearce proposed recommending an increase in the facilities contractor's rate to £20 per hour and a 12-month contract commencing on 11 September 2026. Seconded by Cllr Jon Prinn, the committee supported the recommendation to full council.
2026.09.09-17	To REVIEW 2026-27 hire rates and make suggestions for 2027/28 rates in preparation for budget setting, and RECOMMEND to full council The matter was discussed in detail, noting that the cost of the council's grass cutting had increased by 10% this year. Cllr Raymond Pearce proposed a 5% increase in the sports pitch rates, currently being used by both the adult and youth St Cleer football clubs. Pavilion-only hire rates would remain the same. Cllr Raymond Pearce proposed a 5% increase for sports pitch hire and no increase for pavilion hire rates. Seconded by Cllr Jon Prinn, the committee supported the recommendation to full council.
2026.09.09-18	To REVIEW the 2026-27 allotment and water rates and make suggestions for the 2027/28 rates in preparation for budget setting and RECOMMEND to full council.

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	Cllr Sue Harbord explained that inflation for the 12 months to September 2026 was 3.3%. Cllr Sue Harbord proposed that allotment pitches hire rates and water rates increase by 3% from 1 April 2027, seconded by Cllr Jon Prinn. The committee supported the recommendation to full council.
2026.09.09-19	Date of next meeting: 14 October via Teams Members agreed to the next meeting being held via Teams on 14 October 2026.

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