

POULTON with FEARNHEAD PARISH COUNCIL
Finance Committee minutes of 9th September 2025

Present: A Warnock-Smith (chair), S. Emery, G. Friend, M. Mansley, U.Gillham (acting clerk).

Apologies: J. Butler, J Perry

Fin 67/25-26: Minutes of last meeting: Agreed proposed MM & seconded GF.

Fin 68/25-26: Matters arising:

- Audit report has now been sent as all issues were rectified.
- Tractor maintenance bill has been paid as agreed at the last meeting.
- CCTV monitor has been purchased

Fin 69/25-26: Balance update:

Meeting noted new spreadsheet sent by JP and noted how informative it was. UG gave the current balance.

Fin 70/25-26: Asset transfer:

Issue is ongoing and there is nothing to report at this stage.

Fin 71/25-26: Foodbank:

SE reported on a recent meeting with JP, who as RFO feels that it is too much of a financial risk for anyone to be using the Parish Bank Card to purchase food. Therefore, JP will be arranging for 'top up' cards to be used in future. It was also noted that the way forward is for Fearnhead Management Group to be given an annual grant for the Foodbank as this would remove a layer of administration.

Fin 72/25-26: Trees on Bennett's Recreation Ground:

It was noted that our insurance documents do not cover 'tree work' at Bennetts Recreation Ground and as such the costs associated with any ongoing work would need to be considered and budgeted accordingly. Further to this discussion, and the fact that Bennetts Recreation Ground has dense woodland, it was suggested that notices are displayed warning the public of the risks associated with walking amongst the woodland.

AWS reported that PPE equipment for tree work has been purchased at a cost of £804.00 for two members of staff.

Fin 73/25-26: Expenditure requests

- a. CHALC annual membership is approved

- b. New laptop with appropriate software package approximate cost £750.00 was approved
- c. New Parish Website, powered by Parish Online at a cost of £560.00 plus VAT was approved
- d. Disciplinary and Grievance course for JP at a cost of £120.00 was approved
- e. SE requested a replacement BBQ for fundraising use at Fun Day and other events at a cost of £675.00 was approved

Fin 74/25-26: Worklist:

Worklist circulated by GF was discussed and noted that some of the larger items may need to be held over until the next financial year, due to the unexpected costs for the trees on Bennett's Rec. this year.

Fin 75/25-26: Parish Precept:

Due to above, plus the issue that PwFPC still has one of the lowest precepts despite the costs of running a community asset such as Bennett's Rec then work will need to be undertaken in examining the precept and work will need to start on it very soon. AWS will liaise with JP on his return. UG noted that last year the deadline for precept requests was very early in January. WBC email out the instructions with timelines.

Fin 76/25-26: AOB

SE requested that Rylands Masters now be charged for each match played on the field as part of their 'deal' was to help with the Fun Day and they didn't turn up this year.

Fin 77/25-26: Date of next meeting

Monday 27th October 2025 at 6.30 but tbc on JP's return.