Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council

Three villages one community

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting held on Monday 26 October 2026 at 7.00pm
The Halfway House, Donisthorpe, Restaurant Area

Present

- Cllr Debbie Warren
- Cllr Mick Warren
- Cllr Stacie Ellison
- Cllr Tina Hawke
- Cllr Nick Antill-Holmes
- Cllr Simon Edwards

In Attendance

- Kelly Grove, Parish Manager / Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Tina Hawke was nominated as Chair of the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED unanimously: That Cllr Tina Hawke be elected Chair of the Finance Committee.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Simon Edwards was nominated as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED unanimously: That Cllr Simon Edwards be elected Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.

3. Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Cllr Hancock George and Cllr Gelder be accepted.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Budget 2027–2028

5.1 Review of the Draft Budget

Members reviewed the draft budget for 2027/28 and considered the following amendments and provisions:

Budget Code 20 – Printing and Stationery
Members considered the additional printing requirements associated with the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: That Budget Code 20 – Printing and Stationery be increased to £672 to provide sufficient provision for additional printing requirements during the year.

Land and Property
Members noted that this section of the budget would need to be reviewed following the Council taking on responsibility for the **Dawkins Road play areas**. Provision may need to be increased under **Budget Code 96 – Arboreal Works** and **Budget Code 47 – Grounds Maintenance**.
Final figures will be considered once the relevant reports have been received.

Budget Code 50 – Play Equipment Repairs
Members discussed the additional budget requirements arising from the Council taking on responsibility for the **Dawkins Road play areas**.
It was noted that funding may be available through existing funds and/or grant funding towards the repair or replacement of play equipment.
Final budget figures will be considered once the relevant reports have been received.

Budget Code 73 – Electoral Costs
Members reviewed the provision for potential electoral costs.
RESOLVED: That Budget Code 73 – Electoral Costs be increased to £2,000.

Budget Code 67 – Burial Board Funding
Members discussed the potential impact of the proposed boundary change, which remains subject to final approval. Taking into account the potential boundary change and increasing costs, members considered the level of provision required within the 2027/28 draft budget.
RESOLVED: That provision of £9,000 be included under Budget Code 67 – Burial Board Funding, subject to review once confirmation of the boundary change has been received and the Burial Board has finalised its budget requirements for the coming year.

5.2 Review of the Draft Precept Figures

Members reviewed the draft precept figures for 2027/28.
Based on the current draft budget, a provisional precept of **£175,210** was considered, compared with **£132,478** for the previous year, representing an increase of approximately **33%**.
Members also discussed the cost per week to residents associated with the proposed increase in the precept.

Members noted that the proposed precept remained subject to confirmation, as several budget areas were awaiting reports and final costings.
The precept figure will therefore be reviewed once the outstanding information has been received before a final recommendation is made.

CONFIDENTIAL EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the press and public were excluded from the meeting for discussion of the following items due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

6. Future Considerations
6.1 Asset Reclamation
Members discussed the potential financial implications arising from this matter and the need to make additional provision within the 2027/28 draft budget to help mitigate any increase in anticipated costs.

RESOLVED: That an additional provision of £20,000 be included within Budget Code 62.
Members noted that the matter remains subject to the outcome of the ongoing legal process and that no final decisions can be made until the legal position has been resolved.

6.2 Neighbourhood Plan
Members reviewed the financial provision for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Budget Code 97 – Neighbourhood Plan: £7,500 has been included within the 2027/28 draft budget.
In addition, **£20,000** is held within the Council's reserves towards the Neighbourhood Plan project.
Members noted that further funding may be required as the project progresses.

6.3 Boundary Change
Members noted that the Council is awaiting formal legal notification confirming whether the proposed boundary change will proceed.
Should the boundary change be approved, provision will need to be made for **three Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)**

- replacement of the existing sign on Moira Road;
- replacement of the existing sign on Donisthorpe Lane; and
- an additional permanent sign on Hill Street.

Members noted that the cost of these signs would need to be budgeted for over the coming years, rather than necessarily being funded within a single financial year.

7. Correspondence

No further correspondence was received or raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on **6 January 2027 at 7.00pm at Donisthorpe Youth Club**.

The purpose of the meeting will be to consider the final **2027/28 budget and proposed precept** prior to consideration by Full Council on **13 January 2027**.

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at **8.00pm**.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____