

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Role

The Finance and General Purposes Committee reports to full Council and is responsible for the financial management of the Council, considering policies relating to the Council's areas of responsibilities and staffing matters.

The Staffing Sub-Committee reports to this Committee.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of Members of the Parish Council including the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman who shall have full voting rights.

The Committee shall invite non-councillor members to join the Committee where they may have expertise to offer on a particular subject, but non-councillors shall not have voting rights.

Meetings shall be open to the public unless a Resolution is passed relating to a particular item on the agenda that the business to be transacted is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature or other special reason, which shall be duly recorded.

Committee members are required to read the documentation relating to agenda items prior to attending the meeting.

The Council may vote to disqualify any member of the committee from a meeting or from the actual committee if it is felt that a particular councillor is disrupting the work of the committee

Quorum

A quorum must comprise at least three voting Members or one third of the Committee members, whichever is greater.

Chairman and Vice Chairman

At each annual Council meeting, in an election year, members of the Committee will elect, from its number, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

In a non-election year, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee will be elected at the first meeting of the Committee after the Council annual meeting.

The Chair of the Committee shall liaise with the Assistant Clerk prior to the publication of the agenda to agree the items to be included.

Meetings

The FGP Committee shall meet quarterly or more frequently if required. Meetings usually held in the months of March, June, September and December (Budget Meeting).

Where necessary, and where the law allows, meetings will be held online.

Meetings shall be clerked by the Assistant Clerk.

The agenda and notice of the meeting shall be published at least 3 clear working days in advance, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Orders.

If a Committee member is unable to attend the meeting they should, where possible, inform the Parish Council no later than noon on the day of the meeting.

Minutes of the Committee shall be circulated to all Members of the Council and signed by the Chairman of the FGP Committee at its next meeting.

Purpose and Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

- Monitor, review and approve the Council's financial management procedures.
- Consider and agree grants to local groups and organisations
- Consider and agree annual grants to approved bodies
- Agree the Council's draft budget and Precept requirements for approval by the Council
- Consider and agree policies relating to the Council's areas of operation and forward to the full Council for adoption
- Consider staffing and personnel matters having regard to recommendations from the Staffing Sub-Committee
- Approve authorised signatories in respect of payments to contractors didn't quite understand this one?
- Undertake Members' audits (approved authorised signatories For bank account Consider the financial impact of decisions made by the Committee and the Council and any long-term implications
- Consider and approve Financial Regulations
- Ensure the Council has adequate insurance cover for all its activities
- Consider and approve repairs to the Parish Council office site

Delegated Powers

The Committee is authorised to:

- Carry out budget monitoring and approval of financial procedures
- Approve payments to contractors, contracts (not within the remit of another Committee) and audit regulations
- Approve grants to outside bodies and organisations

- Approve staff contracts of employment and documentation following recommendation from the Staffing Sub-Committee

F Hensher
May 2026