

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held at the Council Chamber on Wednesday 10th June 2026

Committee Members present: Douglas Bradley, Ann Bridges, Lee Cowen, David Devoy, Steve Neocleous and Joe Pannell.

Ex-officio: Denyse Whillier (Chair)

Officers: Steven Trice (CEO/Clerk)

Members of the Public/Cllrs: A representative from Lancing Community Garden with interest in F008 Grants.

The Chair welcomed all present and read the safety announcement.

F001. Election of a Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee

Cllr Whillier nominated Cllr Neocleous and was seconded by Cllr Bridges. There were no other nominations.

It was **RESOLVED** to **elect Cllr Neocleous as the Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year.**

F002. Election of a Vice-Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee

Cllr Whillier nominated Cllr Devoy and was seconded by Cllr Cowen. There were no other nominations.

It was **RESOLVED** to **elect Cllr Devoy as the Vice Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year.**

F003. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bradley - holiday.

F004. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest on any of the agenda items for this meeting.

F005. Public forum and questions

Mr Steven Saunders from Lancing Community made representation on the work of Lancing Community in support of their grant application on invitation of the Chair.

F006. Finance and Governance Committee minutes for the meeting held on [8th April 2026](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to **approve the minutes for 8th April 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

F007. YTD Income and Expenditure

Cllr Devoy asked what miscellaneous income under budget line 1006 related to. The CEO/Clerk stated he could not answer the question and would check with the Finance Offices and write to Member after the meeting. For information, *the money relates to income derived from the placement of EV Charging Points at Beach Green and*

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Widewater. A separate budget heading line will be created to clearly show the income. Without further comment or questions.

The Year-to-Date Income and Expenditure was NOTED

F008. Grants

Before the Committee considered the grant applications, Cllr Whillier raised the issue of monitoring awarded grants. Members agreed that this would be sensible and requested that grant recipients reports on their expenditure and the outcomes of the project or purchase. This information would be provided to the Council through an end-of-grant form and subsequently reported back to the Committee for reference.

The Chair presented the grant applications received and suggested that it would be prudent to allocate the entire budget at this meeting, as the total value of applications exceeded the available budget. The Committee wished to avoid a repeat of last year's situation, where a second round of grant applications significantly exceeded the funds available. This approach was proposed on the understanding that all awards made would be considered worthy of support.

Cllr Devoy spoke in support of the Beehive Care Group, which had been refused funding the previous year because its application was too general in nature. However, with a specific project now identified, he felt the application could be supported. The Chair also welcomed the group's presence in the village. With regards to Boundstone Chorus, Members noted that its performances are open to the wider community. The Chair added that the group should be asked to perform at a Council event as a condition of any grant award. Cllr Devoy also welcomed the establishment of the Lancing and Sompting WI and praised Lancing Community Garden for providing fresh produce to the local food bank. Turning to the applications before them, Members agreed that all were worthy of support. Three proposals were put forward:

1. Cllr Pannell suggested a funding allocation. That all organisation received full request for funding apart from Southcoast Skate Park and Beehive Care Group who would have the remaining balance split between the at circa £1,500 each.
2. Cllr Cowen suggested an alternative allocation, which saw the monies distributed evenly between all applicants.
3. Cllr Neocleous, through the Chair, suggested a third allocation option, which he felt would be a fairer split of the monies as follows; £500 to Men in Sheds, £600 to Tyler Trust, £1,000 to BeeHive Care Group, £1,200 to Lancing and Sompting WI, £800 to Barracuda Explorer Scouts, £1,000 to Lancing Community Garden, £2,500 to Southcoast Skate Club, £1,350 to Boundstone Chorus, £1,050 to Lancing and Sompting Bowling Club

Following debate, Members agreed to Proposal 3, presented by the Chair, as it provided a fairer distribution of funding across all applicants in terms of the grant requested. Members noted that it supported a wide range of organisations and represented an effective use of the available budget.

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At the conclusion of the discussion, Members requested that officers contact grant recipients who had not received their full requested amount to determine whether they would still be able to deliver the projects for which funding had been sought.

Members also discussed the possibility of increasing the grant budget for the following year and exploring the option of focusing future funding on specific themes, such as youth or environmental projects. It was therefore:

RESOLVED, unanimously, to award the following grants.

- 1) **£500 to Men in Sheds towards the purchase of essential materials, fixings, and consumables.**
- 2) **£600 Tyler Trust towards delivering practical and emotional assistance to families of seriously ill children**
- 3) **£1,000 to BeeHive Care Group towards to establish “ReMind”, a new six-week Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) programme at the Dementia Hive in Lancing**
- 4) **£1,200 to Lancing and Sompting WI towards the establishment of a new Women’s Institute branch serving Lancing and Sompting**
- 5) **£800 to Barracuda Explorer Scouts towards a series of Explorer Scout development camps in Lancing for young people aged 14–17.**
- 6) **£1,000 to Lancing Community Garden towards improvements that will help expand its work supporting local residents and donating fresh fruit and vegetables to people in need.**
- 7) **£2,500 to Southcoast Skate Club towards re-opening its free youth skate club in Lancing and deliver outreach skateboarding sessions for local young people aged 11–17.**
- 8) **£1,350 to Boundstone Chorus towards a large community music project based around Zimbe! Come Sing the Songs of Africa by Alexander L’Estrange.**
- 9) **£1,050 to Lancing and Sompting Bowling Club towards the purchase of equipment to deliver bowls sessions in local schools Bowls Buddies**

F009. [Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme](#)

Member noted the Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme and the changes presented in the covering report and without comment re-adopted the document.

Members **RESOLVED** to **adopt the Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme**

F010. [Beach Hut Hire Capacity and Income Update](#)

Members commended the work of the Assistant to the Clerk in presenting the current Beach Huts hire income and noted the Marketing Officer's work, which demonstrated that, with additional promotional activity, improved results can be achieved with regards to generating increased income from hirings. Cllr Whillier highlighted the importance of optimising Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) and Generative Engine Optimisation (GEO) to improve the visibility of the Beach Huts in online searches and offered support

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regarding potential improvements through generic search optimisation. It was agreed that this work should be explored further. Having considered the evidence presented within the report, the Committee agreed that it would be prudent to retain the existing Beach Huts and focus on maximising income during the current season. Members acknowledged that the absence of bookings during the off-season is to be expected; however, it was agreed that further work should be undertaken to identify innovative ways of increasing the use of the Beach Huts outside the peak season. The Committee requested that the Marketing Officer and Assistant Clerk continue to develop marketing initiatives and explore additional opportunities to increase utilisation. The pricing structure was discussed. Members considered whether seasonal pricing should be introduced, recognising that demand during the summer months may support higher hire charges. It was noted, however, that implementing seasonal pricing may present practical challenges and would require further consideration. Alternative payment options were discussed, including a proposal for customers to pay the standard rate on the week of the hire or receive a 10% discount for advance payment on a non-refundable basis. Members felt that such an approach could improve cash flow. It was also suggested that prospective customers who had previously been unsuccessful in securing a booking should be proactively contacted when availability arises. In conclusion the Committee noted that the current income figures were encouraging and agreed that performance should be reviewed again at the end of the summer season. Members welcomed the exercise, which had broadened the Committee's thinking regarding both the marketing of the Beach Huts and potential future uses.

Members **RESOLVED** that **the Council does not sell any Beach Huts and instead continues to develop and implement marketing initiatives aimed at maximising income from its existing four Beach Huts.**

F011. Items for information and/or inclusion on future agendas

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm

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