

Minutes of a Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council's Finance Committee held on Tuesday 6 January 2026

Present

Councillor S Cameron (in the Chair)

Councillors:

W Briggs (from 4.10pm)

J Johnston

V McDermott

J Ryder

Denise French (Parish Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

The Meeting started at 4.00pm.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 7 October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4. Quarter 3 25 - 26 Budget Review

The RFO presented the Quarter 3 budget review. Members noted that the audit fee had been paid in total but the budget allocated payment to each quarter. Members queried the payment for the infant play unit which was not included in the budget and whether budget would need to be vired; the RFO said this could be paid from reserves if necessary.

RESOLVED: that the Quarter 3 budget be received and noted.

5. Full year budget forecast and budget for 2026 – 27

The Committee considered the budget for 2026 – 27. Members noted that there were no significant projects in the budget for 26 - 27, although the parish council was considering funding floral displays. It was also requested to consider provision of grit bins.

The projects and reserves lists were considered in July and no changes were proposed.

RESOLVED: that the draft budget be recommended to the parish council for adoption subject to consideration of including funding for projects to fund floral displays and grit bins.

6. Precept 2026 - 27

The RFO explained that CWAC had advised that the tax base had increased slightly. He had used an inflation rate of 4% when calculating options for the precept. He presented examples of several scenarios relating to the precept including keeping the precept the same as the previous year; keeping the Band D charge the same as the previous year; a 4% increase to the precept and a 4% increase to the Band D charge.

RESOLVED: that the parish council be recommended Option 3, to increase the Precept by 4.0%, which is the sum of £ 29,254 and represents £64.71 for a Band D property which is an increase of £1.75 over 12 months.

7. Payroll services 2026 onwards

The RFO was still investigating possible alternative suppliers. The arrangements with the current supplier were to pay an annual invoice. He suggested moving to more frequent billing in case the council wished to move provider during the financial year.

RESOLVED: that the RFO will request monthly invoices from Shires, the payroll provider, in case the council decides to move provider during the financial year, and benchmark their charge against alternative suppliers.

8. Bank statement

The Internet Banking Policy included a provision that the committee consider a recent bank statement and the statement to 30 December had been circulated.

RESOLVED: that the bank statement is received and approved.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 4.00pm.

It was agreed that further meetings take place on 7 July; 13 October and 12 January 2027, all commencing at 4.00pm.

Part 2 – EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS – none

The meeting closed at 4.35pm

Cllr S Cameron (in the Chair)