

Minutes of a meeting of Cold Ash Parish Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 23.6.2026 at 8.15pm in the Committee Room of Acland Memorial Hall

Present: Murray (PM/Vice-Chair), Maini (VM), Riley (JR) and Codling (HC)

In Attendance: Rosie Jardine (Clerk & RFO)

Absent: Silsby (DS)

FGP26.1 Election of Committee Chair

HC proposed PM as chair., This was seconded by JR.

RESOLVED to elect PM as Committee Chair.

FGP26.2 Apologies for Absence

None

FGP26.3 Declarations of Interest

HC declared that they are a District Councillor, that they will act in the best interests of the Parish and set aside any interest in the District Council during this meeting.

FGP26.4 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve and sign minutes of the meetings held on 28.10.2025 and 18.11.2025.

FGP26.5 Project Updates

REVIEWED progress on ongoing CAPC projects.

Project	26-27 Budget	Spent to date	Future forecast spend	Spend against budget
A – West Berkshire Local Plan: IM & PM	£5,000	£0		
B – Bringing the NDP alive: IM & PM				
C - Data & Resource Sharing: PM	No budget	£0	£0	£0
D - Traffic and Transport (road safety, 20mph, SID's, etc): VM	£2,000	£0		
E – Anti-Social Behaviour (car park, CCTV and other): DS	£200	£146.25	£240.00	-£185.25
<i>Comment:</i>	<i>£240 forecast includes payment for contractor install and subscription to Google Home operating system. Further costs anticipated to address “teething” problems.</i>			
F – Community Engagement: HC and Clerk	£750	£0		£0
G – Sculpture Trail: IM	£500	£16.50	£300	£183.50
H – Upper Stone Rise play area: HC & IM	No budget	£0	Possible legal advice	£0

FGP26.6 Contractor Pricing

REVIEWED contractor price rises and any expected budget implications.

- Grundon fuel surcharge of 4.9% per collection is likely to result in an additional £15-20 this financial year.
- ION Systems software increases are negligible for CAPC with a likely additional £5-10 this financial year.
- Tactical Facilities Management increases are significant for CAPC and are expected to exceed our £3,874 budget by around £2,000 by the end of this financial year.

FGP26.7 Budget

REVIEWED 2026-2027 budget to date and predicted spend further to Council review on 9.6.2026. There were no significant budgeting issues to flag beyond those already reported.

FGP26.8 VAT

REVIEWED the VAT position. Currently £1,120.81 is available to reclaim and a full quarter 1 reclaim will be submitted to HMRC by the Clerk/RFO in early July.

FGP26.9 Banking

NOTED recent banking changes reported by the Clerk/RFO and REVIEWED against the Reserves & Investment Policy. The Clerk/RFO reported:

Minutes of a meeting of Cold Ash Parish Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 23.6.2026 at 8.15pm in the Committee Room of Acland Memorial Hall

Hinckley & Rugby Building Society

- 45-day and 90-day Parish Council accounts have been opened with opening balances of £42,500 each as per this Committee's recommendation and CAPC minute ref 25.138D
- Opening balances transferred from CAPC's Co-Op Bank savings account 18.5.2026
- Reconciliation of the new accounts was included in the May Bank Reconciliation at the 9.6.2026 CAPC meeting, item 26.91D
- 45-day notice account interest rate 2.1%
- 90-day notice account interest rate 2.8%
- Account signatories are Vipian, Pete M, Pete A and Clerk/RFO

Unity Trust Bank

- Two accounts have been opened for The Poor's Allotments & Recreation Ground Charities, a key last step in the separation of Charity finances from CAPC.
- Opening balances transferred from CAPC's Co-Op Bank current account Current account T1 - £5,603 represents around 50% of the annual budgeted grant from CAPC to the Trust
- Savings account Instant Access - £14,201.58 represents funds held in reserve for Trust assets and has been reflected in the balanced of CAPC's Earmarked Reserves.

Trust Earmarked Reserves (EMR) 30.4.2026

Tennis Court Refurb	£ 6,144.00
Ash Dieback	£ 7,530.14
Cricket Square Refurb	£ 282.24
Recreation Ground Treatment	£ 245.20
Trust Total EMR	£ 14,201.58

- Reconciliation and management of these new Trust accounts will be completed by the Trust.
- Further accounts are due to be opened for CAPC at Unity Trust Bank, as per CAPC minute ref. 239588F. However, priority will first be given to completing the user setup for the above new accounts.

FGP26.10 Grants

a) there was no review of the draft Grant Policy and supporting Application Form prepared by the Clerk/RFO.
ACTION: HC and Clerk to commence Community Engagement project to promote community grants offering, to potentially include an increased budget as this has been fixed at £1,250 since 2016-2017.

b) RESOLVED to recommend to Council on 14.7.2026 to award the following grants from the Community Grants Budget utilising LGA1972, S172.

£155 to Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley to support health and well-being workshops at St Mark's School

£150 to Berkshire Vision to support access to social clubs, tech buddy service and Sight Loss Support Officer for 2 parishioners

Subject to Council resolution, £845 of the 2026-2027 budget remains to be awarded.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chair Date