

Great Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Great Waltham Parish Council held in the Pavilion , South Street , Great Waltham on Monday 27th April 2026 at 7.30pm.

1. Chair's Welcome:

Chair: Gilbert.
Cllrs: Martin, Stephenson, Jackson and Nicholls.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Holland.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and requests for dispensation.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Participation session - items do not need to be on the agenda.

There were no members of the public present.

5. To review open items on the Action Tracker circulated prior to the meeting.

The tracker report was reviewed and updated and items closed.

6. Review of the Budget Performance FY 2025-2026.

The budget report was reviewed line by line to understand any variances.

No issues were raised.

The additional income to budget figure of £25,162.35 was noted.

The expenditure underspend to budget of £7,898.74 was noted.

Resolution: A document summarising current reserves to be introduced and made available to the Committee at its future meetings.

Resolution: The budget was noted and discussed.

7. Discuss the implications of the 2025–2026-year end position in relation to assessing options for the completion of the Great Waltham Recreation Ground play area project, and to make any recommendations.

The end of year bank figures were discussed.

Unity Bank account was holding £80,748.81

General Reserve account was holding £17,091.50

The payment to RTC (for safety surfacing) of £19,492 has been made.

The second payment to HACS (for equipment and installation) has not been made while some issues are resolved.

Resolution: The Clerk to complete the financial report for the next meeting and move any excess savings to a high interest account to maximise the money available to the project.

8. To recommend that the Council increases the excess amount under the 'All Risks' section of its insurance policy to £500 and adjusts its sums insured declaration accordingly.

After a lengthy debate concerning the merits of increasing the excess and self-insuring (the saving to the Council would have been around £100 per annum), the conclusion reached was that it was better to remain fully insured with a £100 excess.

Resolution: Close this item.

9. To recommend that, beginning in the 2027/28 financial year, the Council creates an earmarked reserve to self-insure those assets whose values fall below the excess amounts applicable under its insurance policy.
In view of the Committee's decision to not recommend changing the excess levels of the policy it was agreed to close this item.

Resolution: Close this item.

10. Review and prioritise outstanding and proposed works and projects.
The accumulated list of approved works was reviewed. Several projects do not have a start or finish date but have been approved.
The projects are across the parish and include some asset refresh items alongside some recreation items.

Resolution: The list of projects to be updated and consolidated into one list for prioritisation (with costing to be attached where possible) ahead of the next meeting.

Members – Cllr Jackson, Cllr Martin, Cllr Gilbert, Cllr Stephenson , Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Holland.

Meeting Closed: 21.04
Will Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council.