CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL – POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3 November 2025

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Chair Councillor Evans with Councillors Attrill, Beer, Child, Davies, Jones and Scott

In Attendance: Hilary Blaker (Clerk)

Public Participation:
One member of the public attended who raised no comments.

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies were received and duly accepted from Councillors Bicknell and Broadhurst.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None were recorded

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING.
Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands these were ACCEPTED.

4. TO NOTE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS:

i. **To NOTE the financial reports, including the bank reconciliation as of 30 September 2025, and**
The financial reports were noted.

ii. **To agree the payments made from the Scribe payment summary as of 24 October 2025.**
Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the payment summary was agreed.

5. TO NOTE THE RETIREMENT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR, LIGHTATOUCH, AS FROM 30 JUNE 2026.
The retirement of the Internal Auditor had been anticipated and was duly noted. Following a member query, the Clerk assured that due process would be followed in securing a new Internal Auditor in time for the 2026/27 financial year.

6. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR 2026.
Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the proposed budget allocation was AGREED. Discussion took place regarding the shift from managing the Funtasia on an income / expenditure basis to subsidising instead.

7. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR GRANTS FOR 2026/27.
Members discussed the current approach to grant allocation and considered opportunities to better align grant awards with the aims of the Parish Council. Following discussion, it was proposed that the management of grant awards be taken forward to the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting. Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the proposed budget allocation for grants was AGREED, including provision for the increased funding to support the future no. 44 passenger transport solution, as resolved at the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Full Council held earlier the same evening.

8. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER INITIAL DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2026/27.
Discussion took place regarding energy costs and the opportunity and impact of possible solar energy solutions as well as future asset transfers. No further questions or considerations were raised.

9. TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF ENERGY COSTS NATIONALLY AND AGREE TO FIX ENERGY CONTRACTS IN ADVANCE OF THE 2027 RENEWAL, TO SECURE BEST PRICE.
Following presentation of the anticipated changes to the structure of energy costs, with consideration to the split between commodity and non-commodity costs, the proposal was made to fix the energy contracts in advance of the scheduled renewal date of March 2027, through British Gas.

10. MATTERS TO BE TAKEN TO THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT AGENDA

Items for the next agenda: Grant award structure and possible criteria, final consideration of 2026/27 budget and ongoing review of council policies.

The date was confirmed for the next meeting as Monday 12 January 2026, 7pm, at Fryern Pavilion.

That being all business, the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman…….....