CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL – POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

5 January 2025

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

In Attendance: Hilary Blaker (Clerk)

Public Participation:
Cllr Walker attended as a member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies were received and duly accepted from Councillors Broadhurst, Davies and Evans.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Declarations of Interest were received from Cllrs Attrill, Beer and Bicknell in their capacity as Eastleigh Borough Councillors, with relevance to agenda item 8 and 9.

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE 3 NOVEMBER 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 November 2025, and**
The financial reports were noted.

ii. **To agree the payments made from the Scribe payment summary as of 21 December 2025.**
Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the payment summary was agreed.

5. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2026/27, TO INCLUDE THE SETTING OF PRECEPT.
Following an explanation of various elements within the draft budget, members took time to discuss the impact to local services and residents. With asset transfers underway consideration was given to the potential increase in costs for the maintenance of playgrounds and open spaces, whilst maintaining other local services. Members discussed information received from Eastleigh Borough Council regarding Special Expenses and took time to evaluate the impact to residents. Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands members agreed to make RECOMMENDATION to Full Council for an increase in precept by 12% which equates to a value of £7.93 annually per average Band D property.

6. TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF NEW INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR AND TO AGREE TO SECURE TENDERS.
Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands it was agreed for the Clerk to secure tenders for further consideration by Full Council within the March 2026 meeting.

7. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PARISH OF CHANDLER'S FORD, ST BONIFACE CHURCH, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF GRANT AWARD IN NOVEMBER 2025.
Correspondence was received.

8. TO AGREE, COMPLETE AND SUBMIT RESPONSE, ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE SOLENT AREA, AS DELEGATED BY FULL COUNCIL ON 15 DECEMBER 2026.
Members discussed each question within the Government's online public consultation and agreed each response accordingly. The consultation was completed and submitted electronically.

9. TO DISCUSS, AGREE AND SUBMIT STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT COUNCILS WITHIN AREAS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION MAY APPLY TO DELAY THE SCHEDULED 7 MAY 2026 ELECTIONS.

Following discussion, members proposed, seconded and agreed the following statement response –

"There is no reason to delay the elections scheduled for 7 May 2026.
Chandler's Ford Parish Council strongly support residents right to vote democratically, in line with recommendations of the Electoral Commission."

This statement is to be submitted by the Clerk.

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

Items for the next agenda: Grant award structure and possible criteria and ongoing review of council policies.

The date was confirmed for the next meeting as Monday 13 April 2026, 7pm, at Fryern Pavilion.

That being all business, the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman…….....