TOTLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance** meeting of **TOTLAND PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 12th October 2026** at **6:00 PM,** at Totland Village Hall, The Broadway, Totland.

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr G Wyre
Vice-Chairman : Cllr E Smith
Councillors : Cllr V Fennell, Cllr C Jarman, Cllr C Johnson
Officers : Mrs H Gibbs

* Attended remotely

1 APOLOGIES

TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR NON ATTENDANCE
Apologises were received and accepted from Councillors' Blamire, Pipe and Cave.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.
Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in an item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.
None

3 FINANCE

a. To receive the budget monitoring report for 1st April - 30th September 2026/2027 (6 months)
The budget monitoring report was noted.
A brief explanation was provided to Councillor Johnson outlining the ownership arrangements for the Memorial Hall and the associated financial responsibilities. It was confirmed that the building is owned by both Parish Councils (1/3rd to 2/3rd), and that each parish council has an ongoing obligation to contribute to its maintenance and operational sustainability. Councillor Johnson was also advised that annual financial support for the hall is delivered through each council's precept, forming part of their shared commitment to ensuring the continued provision of the facility.

b. To consider saving recommendations for Colwell Public Toilets
Discussions were held regarding the operating costs of the Colwell public toilets, particularly during the winter period when usage is low but charges continue to be incurred due to card payment capability being active on all four cubicles. The Clerk advised that the current arrangement results in disproportionate expenditure over the winter months, largely driven by transaction related fees.

To reduce these costs, the Clerk recommended that two cubicles be closed throughout the winter season, thereby reducing the monthly machine charges and limiting unnecessary operational expenditure. In addition, the Clerk is exploring whether two of the cubicles could be converted to cash only, which would significantly reduce the card processing charges incurred year round. These measures are intended to even out the account, reduce seasonal losses, and ensure a more sustainable cost profile for the

facility.

The Clerk is also looking at the option of contracting directly with Nayax, rather than continuing to operate through the current third party provider. Moving to a direct arrangement would remove the additional £5.00 per cubicle monthly charge currently applied. If implemented, this change would reduce the ongoing outgoings for each active unit and contribute to a more efficient cost structure for the facility.

Councillors agreed to the following actions:

- To close two cubicles over the winter period, subject to confirmation that such closures will not incur machine charges.
- To continue investigating the feasibility of converting two cubicles to cash only operation, with the aim of reducing card processing costs throughout the year.
- To proceed with the transition to working directly with Nayax, thereby removing the third party charge of £5.00 per cubicle per month.

Proposed Councillor Wyre, seconded Councillor Fennell all agreed. **RESOLVED**.

c. To consider project ideas for 2027/2028
Two project proposals were considered by Councillors.
1. Telephone Box – The Broadway Councillors discussed a proposal to convert the telephone box on The Broadway into a small community information point. The project would involve installing a bookshelf on the rear wall and fitting a hinged door to accommodate advertising posters. The estimated cost is under £300.00, and Councillors agreed to proceed with this project in the spring.

2. Outdoor Gym – Recreation Ground Councillors also considered a proposal to enhance the outdoor gym equipment by adding horizontal bars/pull-up bars. The price for this addition is still required. Once the quotation has been received, it will be circulated to Councillors for further consideration and a formal decision.

d. To consider the annual grants for 2027/2028
The current annual grants amount to £21,250.00 between the West Wight Sports and Community Centre, Community Connector, West Wight Nursery and the IOW Defibrillator. Councillors agreed to continue supporting these worthy groups if the funding allowed.

e. To receive the draft budget for 2027/2028
The draft budget was noted.
Two years ago, during the Parish Council's open day with residents, it was agreed that the precept would be increased to support the purchase of the Village Hall. Councillors further agreed that the precept would not be raised again for several years, as the uplift would provide sufficient funding both for the acquisition and for the initial works required.

The Village Hall has now been paid for in full. Improvement works have been completed to the internal hall and foyer area, and external painting has been undertaken to the main frontage, including the hand painting of the hall's name. A planning application was submitted for a wider extension project, incorporating a Parish Council office, accessible toilets, a meeting room, storage and alterations to the rear of the building where the existing changing rooms are located. This application has now been approved, and a meeting with ERMC will be arranged to discuss the next steps.

The Clerk asked Councillors to consider a short term loan, 5 years, to enable the full extension works to be undertaken as soon as possible. Without borrowing, it is estimated that the Council would require a further three years to accumulate the necessary funds, during which time construction costs and materials would continue to rise. On balance, the difference between the interest payable on a loan and the projected increase in costs favoured proceeding with borrowing. Additional benefits include the hall becoming fully available for hire sooner and the Parish Office being relocated during the 2027/2028 financial year at least two years earlier than currently achievable resulting in immediate operational savings.

There would be no additional cost to residents, as the funds already raised for Village Hall works would be sufficient to repay the loan while retaining a margin for any increases in running costs.

A local CIC has offered to loan the required funds to the Parish Council, and Councillors agreed that this arrangement would be suitable. The Clerk will now seek the necessary permission from the Secretary of State, and the matter will be added to the November agenda for full Council consideration.

f. To agree payments to 12th October 2026

APPROVED and **RESOLVED** to make payments by bank transfer/cheque/debit card/direct debit as belows: Proposed Councillor Wyre, seconded Councillor Fennell all agreed.

£1128.00	ERMC - Village Hall
£233.33	Freshwater Parish Council - 1/3rd payment front entrance works
£1650.00	Natural Enterprise - One Horse Field and Turvills Field 26/27
£90.00	South Coast Flagpoles - repairs to Colwell flag pole.
£1395.50	Ventnor Botanic Gardens - replacement trees Colwell Common
£108.00	West Wight Gardening - Village Hall and Cokes Green areas
£640.00	Wighteagle Signs - Village Hall hand written signage
£2774.40	B W Mooring - buoy lifting Widdick Chine, cleaning and storage
£1244.92	Brightstone Landscapes - Grounds maintenance
£89.47	Business Stream - Village Hall utilities
£24.00	High Glass - Window cleaning
£729.00	ICS - public toilet cleaning
£3200.00	Memorial Hall - 2nd half precept and archive room rent
£105.60	R & R Containers - container hire
£443.00	R Nelson - repairs to playbuilder
£15.92	R Selby - tuffbelt wedge - Weston field
£532.80	Vectashield - Pest control, moles Turf Walk, Stokes Green, Recreation Ground
£127.69	Vinyl Banners Printing - Christmas banners

g. To confirm the opening of the CCLA account and transfer of funds

The Clerk confirmed the opening of the CCLA with £50,000 being deposited.

Meeting closed at 7pm

Signed Chairman …….. Date ……..