LENHAM
PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

Monday 20th July 2026 7.30pm

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt presiding.
Cllrs. D Garland, K Hammond, A Ratcliffe and A Walmsley
L. Westcott (Clerk & RFO) & S Newell (Deputy Clerk & RFO)

Public Participation
Member from the Heart of Kent Hospice wanted to discuss recent grant application rejection.
J Britt explained we do not give grants to core funding. But explained a local event for the Heart of Kent Hospice shop in Lenham would be considered.

The chair opened the meeting at 19:40.

1. **To accept apologies for absence.**
   Cllr. H Dale & D Turner
2. **Nominations for substitutions.**
   Cllr A Ratcliffe for Cllr. H Dale. All agreed.
3. **Declarations of interest on the agenda.**
   Cllr. A Ratcliffe declared an interest in item 6a.
   Cllr. J Britt declared an interest in item 6a.
4. **In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public and press excluded.**
   No items were determined as confidential.
5. **Minutes from F&GP Committee meeting held on 24th June 2026**
   The notes of the F&GP meeting held on 24th June were agreed as being accurate.
6. **RFO Financial report and update on work in progress**
   L Westcott reported the bank account balances as follows:

   Current account = £259,789.27 Savings = £11,332.89 CCLA = £1,750.000

   a. **Review payment list for July for recommendation to full council.**
      All transactions are presented in Appendix A.
      All agreed to recommend payments for approval.
      Cllrs. D Garland and A Walmsley reviewed the invoices.
      ACTION L Westcott to process payroll.
      ACTION Cllrs. D Garland & A Walmsley to approve on the bank.

b. **Bank Reconciliation report for June.**
Cllr. J Britt reported that he has reviewed the bank statements, and these reconcile with the accounting software statement. The bank statements and bank reconciliations for June have been signed.

7. **Update on Section 106 & CIL monies due / applications for funds made and note receipts.**
MBC Cabinet meeting on July 22nd to see if recommendation of CIL money for nursery is approved.

8. **To consider quote for Ham Lane Playpark fence replacement. (2 panels) £1080.94 incl VAT.**
All agreed to proceed with the works.

9. **To note the instruction issued to Safeplay to undertake repairs to the play park safety surfacing.**
Emergency works noted.

10. **To consider plans for Remembrance Services.**
Need to clarify who will be doing what on the day.
Officers to look into the number of crosses required, organise wreaths and clarify the situation regarding the attendance of a vicar at both 8th and 11th November services.
L Westcott to email to confirm meeting for 31st July.

11. **To consider quote from Down to Earth for works to tidy up allotments (LPC area)**
An elder tree needs removing.
Tree over the access road needs reviewing.
All agree on quote from Down to Earth for Summer tidy up.
Once CIL money is confirmed – write a letter to 1 Ham Lane for a meeting regarding the fence.

12. **To consider quotations for tree works identified in the arboriculturist's report**
Still awaiting 2 quotes.

13. **Project updates to include:**
    a. **Lenham Nursery** – Awaiting confirmation of CIL money.
    b. **Cemetery Road Resurfacing** – Cllr. A Ratcliffe to send all info to L Wescott for Tender upload.
    c. **Maidstone Road Car Park Resurfacing** – Cllr. A Ratcliffe to send all info to L Wescott for Tender upload.
    d. **CCTV/WIFI –** Phase 2 electrics have been installed. Wifi connections are being put in. Next step W.C 27.07.26 CCTV cameras will be installed.

14. **Updates on proposed Local Government Reorganisation**
MBC is to be grouped with Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling and Sevenoaks.
Election will be held in May 2027 for Unitary authorities, and potentially Parish Councils.
Founding day for the new authorities to take over will be on 1st May 2028.
The next elections for Unitaries and parishes will then be in 2032.

15. **Correspondence received (for information only)**

-Bleed Kits from Hopkins for £45.

-Invite from Lenham Primary for the Forest School opening. 4th September.

-Planters in Platts Heath – SN to do a social media post.

16. **Summary of recommendations to full council**

a. To Authorise payments for July and note income.

b. All agreed for 2 new fence panels in the Ham Lane Playpark.

c. All agreed work to go ahead in the allotments.

The meeting closed at 21:15.

Signed as a true record on this day 2nd September 2026 ……

Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee