



Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee
held online via Zoom (on account of Storm Goretti)
at 5:00pm on Thursday, 8th January 2026

Present: Cllr Dan Lawrence (Chair)
Cllr Austin Davies (late arrival)
Cllr Gerald Francis
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Karen Webb (late arrival)

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

1. Election of Chair

It was proposed, seconded and, having accepted the nomination,

Resolved: To elect Cllr Dan Lawrence as Chair of the Committee to May 2026.

2. Amended Committee membership

Members noted the changes to the configuration of the Committee that came about following the last Council meeting, that saw Cllr Linda Michel step away and Cllr Dan Lawrence join the committee.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Amanda Richards.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: 20th November 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

6. Timetable for Round 3 – Small Grant Fund applications

It was noted a total of £8,615 was available for distribution during round 3.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the timetable as presented.

7. Memorandum of Understanding – Tonyrefail West County Councillors (Windfarm Grant)

5:14pm – Cllr A Davies joined the meeting

The Clerk presented her report, outlining the current arrangement as it stood, pertaining to the £5,000 per annum Windfarm Grant received by the Council on behalf of the two County Councillors representing Tonyrefail West.

Members considered the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) drawn up to formalise the roles and responsibilities of each party with regards to these transactions.

Members discussed point 6.3 and agreed both County Councillors must jointly authorise any payment from the funds held. It was agreed the County Councillors would not be given a choice on this point.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To make the following recommendations to full council:

1. Approve the draft Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Wind Farm Community Grant for Tonyrefail West; and
2. Authorise the Clerk to arrange for the MoU to be signed by the County Borough Councillors for Tonyrefail West.

8. Draft Budget 2026/27

5:31pm – Cllr K Webb joined the meeting

The Clerk presented both her budget report and the draft budget for the year ending 31st March 2027.

As the income generated from burial activities made a significant contribution towards covering expenditure, members agreed to make a recommendation to the Cemetery Committee to consider increasing the fees charged on out of area, new burial and ashes plots.

Members reviewed and discussed the budgeted expenditure for the Administration, Cemetery, Events and Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of Way cost centres, totalling £426,666. It was noted provision for the works to the Penrhawfer Allotment wall had been omitted. With this rectified, total expenditure was taken up to £456,666.

It was noted that Other Income, budgeted to be £62,958, would reduce the total required to be funded from precept or reserves to £393,708.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To recommend for Full Council to adopt the budget for the financial year ending 31st March 2027 as amended.

9. Precept requirement 2026/27

Members considered the effect on Band D equivalent households of a Precept set at £393,708 and felt the increase on the previous year was too high. Members considered the impact a Precept of £370,000 would have both on the tax base and on general reserves.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To recommend for Full Council to agree a precept of £370,000 for the financial year ending 31st March 2027.

6:15pm – Cllr D Grehan left the meeting

10. Date of the next Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Committee: Tuesday, 14th April 2026.

Meeting concluded at 6:25 pm.