

Minutes of the **Additional FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** held on
26th February 2026 at 11.30am at The Old Station, Groombridge

PRESENT Cllrs Diana Kelly, Alan Gaukroger, Robert Gordon-James,
Penny Lawne (Chair), Linsey Winter

In attendance: Deborah Siddle, Clerk (minutes)

Members of the public are encouraged to come to the meetings and there is a 10-minute opportunity at the start of the meeting for them to address the Council. There were no members of the public present.

1. ENQUIRE WHETHER ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING: None.

2. APOLOGIES – Cllr Nick Anderson – work commitment
Cllr Deviani Parekh-Jones – work commitment

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

4. CONSIDER WHETHER TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM 5 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS

003169 RESOLVED to exclude press and public.

5. BUILDING MATTERS

Further to the Building Assets Group meeting of 26th February 2026, Finance Committee noted their recommendations and AGREED to:

- Recommend to Council the drawdown of PWLB funds and to complete on the purchase of Groombridge Old Station
- Recommend to Council to contract Solar Dynamics for inspection/annual service of solar panels
- Explore whether independent rebuild valuations would benefit insurance premiums
- Recommend to Council a budget overspend/use of Earmarked Reserves for works at Post Office/Phoenix House building 2026/27
- Notify Council of the agreed process for expected building-based quotes or additional works during 2026-27
- Update Asset Register to include the purchase of Groombridge Old Station upon purchase

003170 RESOLVED to accept the buildings insurance quote from our current insurers with effect from the date of exchange for Groombridge Old Station.

6. INVITE THE PUBLIC TO RETURN TO THE MEETING IF THEY WERE EXCLUDED FOR THE PREVIOUS ITEMS

003171 RESOLVED to invite press and public to return.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - to note that the proposed date of the next Finance Committee meeting is Monday 23rd March 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 11.45am

Post meeting note

There was an error with an estimate at Phoenix House relating to the timber redecoration at the Post Office/Phoenix House building. The effect is as follows:

Redecoration of timber	est £10,759
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Further chimney/slate repairs	c£1,000
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Solve condensation in the ground floor cupboard	tbc
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Total £11,759 +

As the budget available in 5200 (Phoenix House maintenance) is £10,000 in 2026/27, any overspend will be required from Earmarked Reserves 337 Parish Assets. It was agreed on email to ***recommend this position to March Council.***