SUMMARY OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR CULWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7:30pm
at the Chair's residence (Old Walls, Culworth)

Attending:

Andrew Wilby (Chair)	AW
Jose Rowling	JR
Andrew Field	AF
Clive Waller	CW
Rob Stewart	RS
Catherine Ruffley	CR
Peter Coville	PCov (Clerk)

1. Apologies received
Amy Harrison

RS, CR and CW attended in order to allow for agenda item 7 to be discussed.

2. Layby sett replacement – input to next PC meeting (if needed) – **All**
According to **JR** the PC originally requested the building of the layby. Some 5 setts (granite curbing) are loose and need replacement. These are held by JR and Simon Martin. A possible contractor has been identified. **PCov** also noted that the sign could be replaced. It was decided to refer this to the main Council meeting for public discussion. **PCov** will also inform Simon Martin of this.

3. Electricity bills update (Valda energy) – **Clerk**
Awaiting response from Valda energy via Clear Utility solutions (broker for contract). Chased this morning. It was also noted that several street lights are malfunctioning – Outside the Forge; Mountfield; Ivy House and Old Rectory require branches cutting. **AF** and **PCov** to monitor.

4. Audit timetable update – **Clerk**
The timing of the audit has been confirmed with the WNC internal auditor. The audit documents will be sent to her at the start of April. The intention is to sign off the audit report and accounts and AGAR at the June PC meeting. Then the accounts will be put up for public scrutiny and aim to sign off on the external audit at July or September PC meeting.

5. **Payments for approval** by the Finance Committee, and any other accounts questions.

Below payments were approved for processing. Proposed **JR** approved **AF** carried unanimously.

Description / Power	**Amount**	**VAT**	**Total**
Marcus Young Environmental – Dog Bins 4748 *S51 Public Health Act 1961*	£1,383.20	£276.64	£1,659.84
Wave Water – Water bill 16204719 (DD not yet set up) *S164 Public Health Act 1875*	£16.92	-	£16.92

Further to the invoice from Marcus Young there was some discussion around the emptying of dog bins and their positioning. These often seem full. It might be helpful to resite one of the old bins down near Bankcroft (Eydon hill). It was also suggested to move the litter bin from the old football field to near the Red Lion Public Footpath where it can be emptied by WNC.

CW to confirm that the weekly emptying is being adhered to.
PCov to request the emptying data from Marcus Young to see if it can inform whether moving or adding bins would be helpful (esp when new bins are ordered in 2026). Also enquire about cost.

6. **Village Confines** review– **JR (all councillors available)**
In order to fully understand the impact of the new WNC Local Plan all present reviewed a map of the Village Confines agreed with WNC in 2024 with **JR**. These were also reviewed in comparison to the Conservation Area and Land Registry parcels on Parish Online. The "confines" define where residential development in the village is allowed – rather than change of use planning from agricultural to residential being required. The confines will therefore likely define potential new home sites that may be required under the plan.

All were in general agreement that the current confines appear reasonable.

PCov – to include plan consultation as an agenda item for next meeting (consultation closes 27 March) to document PC response. The Clerk will also pull out the most relevant documents from the consultation for circulation to Councillors and confirm the location of the Confines diagram on the WNC website.

7. **Other business**

PCov – obtain a quote/design for a defibrillator sign for the telephone box to fit where "telephone" used to be.

Clerk approved to clean and/or repaint village sign poles. **RS** offered mini-paint rollers.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.

……Andrew Wilby….
Chair
Andrew Wilby

……6 March 2026……
Date