

## STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Following the Extraordinary Full Parish Council meeting held on 28 January 2026, a summary has circulated which contains factual inaccuracies and omissions. This statement is issued to clarify the record.

### Budget circulation and transparency

The **full budget document was circulated to all councillors on 27 January 2026 at 12:00 noon**, in advance of the meeting and prior to the vote.

During the meeting, the Parish Chairman confirmed that the budget would be published and advised that **any councillor or resident seeking further detail could contact the Parish Clerk**. There was no refusal to provide budget information.

### Alternative budget proposal

An alternative proposal suggesting a **5% precept increase** was put forward verbally. **No written alternative budget, costed breakdown, or supporting evidence was provided** to substantiate this proposal.

The suggested reductions included traffic measures, nature recovery activity, and election-related costs. The majority of councillors considered these to be important community functions and did not support their removal.

### Finance Committee timing

A request was made to hold a Finance Committee meeting earlier. This was not possible as the budget was **not complete at that time**. The timing was therefore a practical necessity rather than a procedural failing.

### Newly appointed councillor

One councillor was appointed **at the start of the meeting** and had **no prior involvement in the budget process**. Despite this, they voted against the budget rather than abstaining.

Negative comments were also made regarding the Parish leisure centre. These statements were made **without evidence** and did not reflect the current position. The leisure centre has **growing membership, strong attendance, and effective management**, and is operated independently by a charitable trust under a lease running until 2040.

### Finance system and budget accuracy

It was explained that the Council had invested in a new finance system to replace an outdated and limited platform, and that historical financial data had been successfully transferred. **No criticism was made of previous officers**, and **there was no £12,000 error in the budget**, as claimed elsewhere.

### Police attendance

The Parish's **PCSO attended the meeting solely to introduce herself to members of the community**, which is standard community engagement practice and unrelated to the budget.

### Decision

After discussion, the Council approved the budget and a **19% precept increase**. **Two councillors voted against**. The decision was taken lawfully, following consideration of the Parish's financial obligations, assets, and service responsibilities.

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This statement is published to ensure that residents have an **accurate and factual account** of the meeting and the budget decision.

