

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It was explained that the Council had invested in a new finance system to replace an outdated and limited platform, and that historical financial data had been successfully transferred.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.

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

