<u>Bugbrooke Parish Council Second Quarter Report – October 2025</u>

This second quarter budget report provides an overview of the parish council's expenditure for the year to date. At this halfway stage, our finances remain in a healthy position, with good progress being made on planned activities with several key projects scheduled for the coming months, including the replacement of two bins and three dog bins, the new defibrillator at the Doctors Surgery, the fence at Captain's Close and the two-replacement streetlight. Therefore, although the budget is looking on track it still requires careful management to allow the council to carry out necessary works and ensure there is enough in the account for any unexpected work.

Financial Overview

As we reach the end of the second quarter, the parish council's finances remain stable overall.

The parish council has spent **£65,303** so far, against a full-year budget of **£144,915**, which represents around **45%** of the annual budget. This is on track for the time of year, with several budget lines not being used until later in the financial year or showing cost savings to date.

The council has given away more in grants **£1862** (37% of budget) in this first half of the year than previous years, but this is encouraging as it is hoped that community groups are engaging more with the parish council. There is the Millennium Green grant of **£4000** due in October and the LINK annual Grant of **£1500** still to be issued. The council are also considering the £1000 request for the church clock this month, and the clerk is expecting a grant application for a similar amount for a large celebration of a long-standing group in the village later in the year so expects the full grants budget to be allocated this year.

Annual expenses such as insurance, legal fees and memberships are in line with expectations. Insurance costs show a small overspend of **£133** (8%) due to premium increases, while legal and membership fees remain within budget.

Maintenance costs are at **£9,669** against a budget of **£16,150** (40%), with regular mowing and open space works progressing through the summer months. Although, the mowing reduces from this point in the year there are still some large maintenance jobs ahead, so this budget is likely to be spent. Street lighting expenditure is at **£4,092** (38% of the annual allocation), with some maintenance work planned later in the year and 3 quarters of the maintenance contact still to pay, as well as the automatic adoption of lights in Johns Road that will push the expenditure above plan by the end of the year.

Community policing costs are at **£16,164**, just under half of the annual budget, reflecting the timing of PCSO invoices.

The overall financial picture remains positive at the halfway mark. Careful budgeting is required as current underspends are expected to balance in the coming quarters since the purchase of Captains Close the working & earmarked reserves as lower requiring careful planning for future activities in 2026/2027.