

2025/2026 Final Budget Briefing Note

The clerk has spent a great deal of time on the budget and before beginning to look at figures for 2025/2026 it has been important to forecast the predicted spend to the end of the 2024/2025 financial year. This entailed a number of versions, but the council have now had confirmation that the sellers have accepted the offer made for Captains Close and the clerk has contacted the solicitor to begin the proceeding. Therefore, the majority of the costs associated with buying this land will be spent in 2024/2025.

Due to the financial planning and building a pot of funding in the 'earmarked reserves' the council can manage the extra spend in 2024/2025 and while the purchase will have minimal impact of the precept for 2025/2026 there are implications and the increase of 17% is much larger than the council likes especially while we are in a cost of living crisis, and while the council understands that we need to keep increases to a minimum; this 17% equates to a £14.92 increase across the year (£1.24 per month increase) for a Band D property.

Last year the council were able to reduce the precept by using funds already in the account to cover a proportion of the budget. This ultimately makes the increase in the precept larger this year as costs have further increased and due to the land purchase the council cannot subsidise it with existing funds.

Due to the purchase of the land, the forecast of the spend to the end of the year is greatly increased and therefore, the full budget will need to be requested in the precept. This land purchase is important for the village, to keep the green space in the heart of the village and ensure it is not built on. We know that this land is necessary, especially if there is flooding.

The council is still in a good financial position with key projects still having an allocation within the earmarked reserves and enough funds to cover emergency purchases. Ensuring the council sticks within the budgets and as always only conducts necessary purchases in 2025/2026, will allow the council to potentially avoid any significant rises again in the precept in 2026/2027.

Below shows the Bugbrooke Parish Councils' current financial position:

	NatWest Current Account	Reserve Account	CCLA	Cash in Hand
Current Position 31/10/2024	£103,417.49	£56,042.50	£50,000.00	£209,459.99
Predicted Spend to March 2024	£65,892.00	£40,000.00		
Position at end of 2024/2025	£37,525.49	£16,042.50	£50,000.00	£103,567.99

2025/2026 amount needed from current account to top up budget	£0.00
Surplus in current account at start of 2025/2026 not allocated	£37,525.49

Summary of 2025/2026 Finances

2025/2026 Budget Total	£ 144,915.00
Subsidised amount from Current Account Surplus	£ -
Precept requirement	£ 144,915.00
Add 0.3% as has been done before to ensure contingency = TOTAL PRECEPT REQUEST	£ 149,262.45
Finance Agreed Precept	£ 144,915.00
Based on predicted tax base from WNC - Annual amount to a Band D property	£ 137.50
Annual increase of:	£ 14.92
% Increase	17.01%

Breakdown of Financial Reserves in 2025/2026

	Prior to 2023	2023/2024 Contribution	2024/2025 Contribution	Total in 2024/2025	Total in 2025/2026	Notes
Twinning	£ -	£ 1,750.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 2,750.00	£ 2,750.00	No increase
Captain Close Wall	£ -	£ -		£ -	£2,000.00	Not relevant
Streetlight Painting	£ -	£ 1,900.00	£ 500.00	£ 2,400.00	£ 2,900.00	Add 500
Possible Land Purchase	£ 40,000.00	£ -		£ 40,000.00	0	Spent
Election Expenses	£ 500.00	£ 500.00		£ 1,000.00	£ 1,500.00	Add 500
6 Year Streetlight Inspection	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,000.00	Add 500
Church Carpark Lines					£ 4,500.00	Add 4500.00
Playground Improvements	£ 4,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 500.00	£ 9,500.00	£ 500.00	Add 500
Interest	£ -	£ -			£ -	
					£ 16,150.00	
	£ 45,000.00	£ 9,650.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 57,150.00	£ 56,042.50	
						Remaining amount after land
					£ 16,042.50	Purchase
						Will be made up in
					-£ 107.50	interest

Summary

The budget for 2025/2026 stands at £144,915.00. Councillors are asked to resolve they are satisfied with the budget figure and once a resolution is passed, councillors will then be asked to set the precept at £144,915.00 for 2025/2026.