3rd Quarter Budget Report(2025/2026) – February 2026

At the end of the third quarter, total expenditure stands at £123,702.65 against a budget of £144,915, leaving approximately £21,212 available for the remainder of the financial year. Overall spending remains within the total budget, with several notable variances at cost centre level.

Key Overspends

The main areas currently over budget are:

Website / Computers / Licences: £3,507 vs £2,500 budget (£1,007 overspend). This is due to the new website being built. It is due to go live before the end of the financial year. Although the parish council had been planning to update the site, this was not fully budgeted for in 2025/2026. However, due to the inclusion of Assertion 10 in the AGAR for 2025/2026, the Clerk wanted to ensure the Council's website was fully compliant and was keen to have the .gov.uk address in use.

Sponsored PCSO Contribution: £32,327 vs £32,000 (£327 overspend). The budget was set before the price increase in 2025/2026. The parish council now knows the cost is to reduce slightly in 2026/2027, and Harpole are going to join the scheme. As a result, this budget line will be significantly under in 2026/2027 and can be reallocated.

Pension Contributions (LGPS): £6,613 vs £5,800 (£813 overspend). The amount is driven by WNC, and contributions are reducing next year. The overspend is covered by the substantial underspend in staff salaries, which more than offsets this staff cost.

General Village Repairs: £1,789 vs £1,000 (£789 overspend). The council has been able to start working with a regular maintenance contractor, making it easier to complete jobs around the village. However, he has been unwell since August and therefore the list of jobs is piling up. It is hoped he will be able to continue. The overspend is covered by other underspends but means work is being completed. Some of this cost is due to repeated vandalism of the bus shelters, which the PCSO appears to have tackled for the moment.

Defibrillator Costs: £1,435 vs £1,000 (£435 overspend). The budget was based on replacement parts; however, the whole unit, including the case, has been replaced with one of the latest models, which is also suitable for infants. Costs in future years will be substantially reduced.

Bin Renewal: £1,249 vs £500 (£749 overspend). Many of the bins, especially the dog bins, were purchased at the same time, some as many as 15 years ago, and now need replacing. They have deteriorated faster than anticipated in the budget but the overspend can be managed.

Street Lighting Repairs: £353 vs £150 (£203 overspend). Similarly, many of the lights are of the same age, and the volume of repairs has been increasing over the last few years. This budget will need to be increased.

Key Underspends

Notable underspends include:

Training & Conferences: £258 vs £1,300 (£1,042 underspend).

Grants Budget: £3,362 vs £5,000 (£1,638 underspend). There is still opportunity for grants to be requested this year.

Publicity & Publications: £50 vs £600 (£550 underspend).

Village Maintenance – paths, mowing, planters: Combined underspend of approximately £4,800. There will still be some expenditure to come.

Overall Position

The Bugbrooke Parish Council remains within the overall budget at the end of the third quarter, with sufficient funds projected to meet commitments through to the year end.