

First Quarter Budget Report – April to June 2026

Financial Overview

At the end of the first quarter, the Council has received £77,956.89 of income and incurred £35,123.90 of expenditure. This represents approximately 50% of the year's anticipated income reflecting receipt of the first half of the precept and around 22% of the total annual expenditure budget of £156,768.

Overall, the Council's financial position is healthy at this early stage of the financial year. Most expenditure remains below the annual budgets.

Income

The Council has received the first instalment of the precept £75,210.50, together with interest earned on savings accounts and the annual mowing grant.

Significant Budget Variations

Community Policing

The Sponsored PCSO is below budget, with **£8,021** spent against a budget of **£32,250** reflecting that Harpole now are part of the group. The money saved will be reallocated based on the next few months decisions on implementing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, Captain Close wall repairs or towards the cost of adopting John Road estate if the Resolution requirements are met.

Village Maintenance

Expenditure totals **£2,943** against an annual budget of **£13,400**.

Current expenditure is largely attributable to:

- Mowing - £1,455
- Path maintenance - £1,438
- Minor village repairs - £50

Compared with last year, the maintenance budget has reduced, so continued monitoring will be required to ensure sufficient funding remains available later in the year. The Council works with a Handy Person and this enables little jobs to be tackled quickly and the Clerk has been keeping on top of issues to ensure Bugbrooke is looking its best while still being mindful of the cost of maintenance.

Street Lighting

Repair costs have already reached **£1,105**, considerably higher than would normally be expected in First Quarter. This is due to us having the maintenance team on hand to make the repairs when needed and also due to the age of the light; the Council appear to be having many needing the photocells replaced at the same. The Council have only just received the Maintenance Contract invoice for the first quarter so this will not be reflected in the figures until next month.

Recreation Facilities

No expenditure has yet been incurred despite an annual budget of £5,250.

Play equipment inspections have taken place and will be reflected in the next quarter figures. There is a number of small jobs that are necessary, but all the inspections came back as low risk. However, the climbing frame at the school is starting to show its age and will benefit from an upgrade in the next few years if not sooner as it is very well used and there is an impression from parents that it needs to be upgraded.

Green Projects

No expenditure has yet been recorded against the new Community Resilience budget, while Environmental Group expenditure has not yet commenced.

Conclusion

The Parish Council remains in a strong financial position after the first quarter of the financial year. Income has been received in line with expectations and expenditure remains well below the annual budget overall.