



Finance & Administration WG

Report 11.11.26

Present: Cllr's Polly Smith, Wendy Soileux, Siobhan Green & The Clerk.

1. Apologies.

Cllr J Karayiannis

2. Budget 26/27.

Cllr P Smith explained that this year the PC were going to give back the over claim from last years precept. The projected end balance would mean that the PC would have to take funds out of reserves to cover the years expenditure.

It was also noted that the percentage increase for 27/28 would be very high, but the precept will need to go back to its original limits, just to cover the annual running expenditure.

a) Lengthsman.

P Smith explained that she had meet with a new potential lengthsman, there was some discussion around the hours which would be required to do some of the works around the Parish. P Smith said it would make financial sense to budget £7,500.00 for the lengthsman labour. Plus, there may be a possibility to get a lengthsman grant.

b) Grass & Hedge Cutting Contract.

The Clerk said while the current Land & Building issues are being sorted, it would make sense to extend the current contract. However, there was concerns expressed over cutting the grass in the summer period when the grass was not growing or needed cutting. Also, the hedge ideally should have 2 cuts a year in February & September instead of, just the one. The Budget would have to be altered to reflect this extra cut.

c) Reserves.

P Smith went through the current protective and un-protective reserves; there could potentially be £68,856.03 would be a prudent buffer.

d) Replacement Fund.

The Clerk explained that the Council should start to look and a replacement fund to cover the cost of replacing capital equipment, like the play equipment at the Village Hall and Frome Park as this could run into hundreds of thousands to replace. The Clerk said it would be a good idea to have the play equipment, inspected for a longevity report.

The Working Group said this would be good prudent financial sense.

e) Village Hall Fund.

The Clerk also said that subject to the outcome of the Land & Building working group there may be a future requirement for the Parish Council to start to build up a fund to repairs to the Village Hall as it is the official owners of the Village Hall.

In summary

The grass and hedge cutting was increased by £1,000.00

A new replacement Capital fund will be set up and £2,000.00 would be added.

The NDP would be reduced from £7,000.00 to £5,000.00

3. Precept Recommendation.

After taking everything into consideration the working group is going to suggest a precept for 2026/27 of £36,000.00.

4. AOB.

There was no AOB.