ASHBY HERRINGFLEET AND SOMERLEYTON PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT& ESTIMATES 2025-26

BALANCES AT 27/12/24

	Current Year	Last Year
	At 27.12.24	**At 29.12.23**
• Current Account	**4611.86**	4452.51
• Investment Account	**1649.08**	1636.42
Total Parish Council Funds	**6260.94**	6088.93
Outstanding payments	585.00	0.00
Outstanding credits	19.00	0.00
Net Parish Council Funds	**5694.94**	**6088.93**
Community Infrastructure Levy	-566.41	-514.28
Social Fund	-2527.46	-2727.64
Working balance	-855.26	-592.42
General reserves	**1745.81**	**2254.59**

Working balance is the net amount of expenditure in the remainder of this financial year (i.e. difference between cols 5 & 4 on page 2, excluding 'Amount to make up general reserves')
General Reserves.
"The advice to external auditors is that general (i.e. un-earmarked) revenue reserves usually lie within the range of three to twelve months' gross expenditure but that the amount should be risk assessed and approved by the Council." [Barrie Woodcock, SLCC].
It was agreed by the PC in November 2011 that the level of reserves should be raised progressively to 75% of budget by allocating a small sum for this.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ANTICIPATED EXPENSES – 2025-26	Actual	Budget	Spent to 31/12/24	Probable Actual	**Budget Estimate**	Explanation
Items recurring annually	2023-2024	Current year	Current year	Current year	**2025-26**	
Audit Expenses		**0**	0	0	**0**	
Clerk's salary and Income Tax	1950	**1950**	1755	2340	**2540**	Increase matches rise in Minimum Wage. To be confirmed by Meeting of PC 23rd Jan 2025
Clerk's/ admin expenses		**75**	0	60.00	**75**	Exclusive of VAT
Play equipment - annual inspection	72.95	**75**	82.50	82.50	**85**	Exclusive of VAT
Seats & other assets – maintenance materials	0	**13.50**	14.00	14.00	**14**	Exclusive of VAT
SLCC & NPTS Membership	131	**131**	135.00	135.00	**140**	
Defibrillator Maintenance and renewables: Cost of 601.95 net in 2023-2024 covered by an ECB Grant received in Feb 2023 Training for Volunteers in Feb 2024 also largely covered by this Grant.	0	**60**	0	115.26 60	**60**	The 115.26 in column 5 is the sum we have agreed with CHT where we will be covered until May 2028 for all renewables. The 60 in column 6 is an estimate of the cost of Volunteer Training in 25-26
Insurance	433.12	**500**	486.54	486.54	**525**	
Hall hire	135.00	**140**	170	170	**170**	Estimate is based on 6 PC Meetings + 1 Annual Parish Meeting, all @ 2hours +3 1-hour Meetings for Insurance and or Planning. Hourly Rate is £10
Data Protection Registration (annual)	35.00	**35**	0	35.00	**35**	Customary sum
Ashby Church (donation)	100.00	**100**	100.00	100.00	**100**	Customary sum
Herringfleet Church (donation)	100.00	**100**	100.00	100.00	**100**	Customary sum
Somerleyton Church (donation)	110.00	**110**	110.00	110.00	**110**	Customary sum
Somerleyton Community Association (playing field)	100.00	**100**	100.00	100.00	**100**	Customary sum
Suffolk Preservation Society (membership)	0	**30**	0.00	0	**30**	Customary sum
Suffolk Accident Rescue (donation)	10.00	**10**	10.00	10.00	**10**	
Councillor training	403	**100**	112.00	112.00	**0**	
Website costs: Enix	60.00	**60**	56.50	56.50	**60**	Exclusive of VAT
Neighbourhood Planning	0	**0**	0.00	0.00	**0**	Exclusive of VAT
VETS	100.00	**100**	100.00	100.00	**100**	Exclusive of VAT
Contingencies	134.64	**200**			**200**	To include Training
Amount to make up general reserves			0		**0**	
Sub-totals	**3874.71**	**3889.50**	**3331.54**	**4186.80**	**4454**	
Overspend (+) or Underspend (-)	*+574.71*			*+541.80*		
Precept demand	**3300.00**			***3645.00***		

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The table on page 2 sets out potential spending items for the next financial year. At the time of writing (16/01), I have not received from councillors any proposals for new spending from our Precept Payment.

Expenditure:
Our estimate in January last year for this year's expenditure was **3889.50**.
This estimate did not include an increase in the Clerk's salary which had not been reviewed at that stage. We have rectified that this year and have factored in the proposed salary increase in our Budget estimate for 25/26.

We calculate that at the end of this financial year, (24-25) we will have exceeded this estimate by **297.30; (4186.80)** in large part this represents the increase in the clerk's salary. The Defibrillator payment of 115.26 is a one-off (see note on p2).
Income:
Last year the Parish Council decided to raise its precept demand by around 10%, (rate of inflation), which did not meet the estimated budget. The difference between expenditure and income (precept) this year is estimated to be **541.80.**
Our reserve has decreased to **1745.81**

Estimated Budget for 2025-26 is **4454.** The large (200) increase in the Clerk's Salary is due to the increase in the minimum wage hourly rate, which the Parish Council is obliged to pay; an agreed change in other aspects of the Clerk's contract e.g. reduced contracted hours could be considered, however.

The Meeting is asked to decide on the Parish Council's Precept demand based on the above and the contents of the letter forwarded with these papers. The crucial sections are the last two sentences at bottom of first page and the top line of page 2.

The options are:

a) to keep our demand at the same figure, (**3465**) as last year, which will show as a **3.92% decrease** on last year's charge;
b) to maintain our tax charge at the 2024/25 rate which will show as a **% change** on the 25/26 Council Tax Bill. This would mean a demand of **3606.96**
c) to increase our demand to bring it more in line with our expected expenditure, **(4454**) which will show as an increase on our charge on Council Tax Bills

NB Our reserve is currently standing at around **39%** of our estimated budget for 2025-2026. Any shortfall in our demand will reduce that further.

Sue Read
016/01/25