ASHBY HERRINGFLEET AND SOMERLEYTON PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT& ESTIMATES 2026-27

BALANCES AT 27/12/24

	Current Year	Last Year
	At 27.12.25	**At 29.12.24**
• Current Account	**4089.49**	4611.86
• Investment Account	**1649.08**	1649.08
Total Parish Council Funds	**5738.57**	6260.94
Outstanding payments	0.00	-585.00
Outstanding credits	0.00	19.00
Net Parish Council Funds	**5738.57**	**5694.94**
Community Infrastructure Levy	-286.51	-566.41
Social Fund	-1948.81	2527.46
Working balance	-1086.50	-855.26
General reserves	**2416.75**	**1745.81**

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 – 2026-27	Actual	Budget	Spent to 31/12/25	Probable Actual	**Budget Estimate**	Explanation
Items recurring annually	2024-2025	Current year	Current year	Current year	**2026-27**	
Audit Expenses		**0**	0	0	**0**	
Clerk's salary and Income Tax	2380	**2540**	1785	2380	**2475**	
Clerk's/ admin expenses	74.29	**75**	0	65.00	**75**	Exclusive of VAT
Play equipment - annual inspection	82.50	**85**	94.95	94.95	**105**	Exclusive of VAT
Seats & other assets – maintenance materials	0	**14**	14.00	14.00	**14**	Exclusive of VAT
SLCC & NPTS Membership	135	**140**	57.50 0.00	141.50	**160**	
Defibrillator Maintenance and renewables	115.26	**60**	0	60	**60**	60 in column 6 is an estimate of the cost of Volunteer Training in 26-27
Insurance	486.54	**525**	486.56	486.56	**487**	2nd of 3 Year deal. No increase expected
Hall hire	170	**170**	100	190	**190**	Estimate is based on 6 PC Meetings + 1 Annual Parish Meeting, plus One Extraordinary 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	0.00	**30**	Customary sum
Suffolk Accident Rescue (donation)	10.00	**10**	10.00	10.00	**10**	
Councillor training		**100**	62.40	62.40	**100**	Training no longer included in Contingencies
Website costs: Enix	60.00	**60**	76.50	76.50	**80**	Exclusive of VAT
Neighbourhood Planning	0	**0**	0.00	0.00	**0**	Exclusive of VAT
VETS	100.00	**100**	100.0	100.00	**100**	Exclusive of VAT
Contingencies	112 Training for2	**200**		**200**	**200**	
Amount to make up general reserves			0	0	**0**	
Sub-totals	**4070.59**	**4454**	**3239.41**	**4325.91**	**4428**	
Overspend (+) or Underspend (-)	*605.59*			*-128.09*		
Precept demand	**3465**			***4454***		

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The table on page 2 sets out potential spending items for the next financial year. At the time of writing (15/01), 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 **4454.00**
This estimate included an increase in the Clerk's salary which was reviewed shortly before the Meeting on 23rd January.

We calculate that at the end of this financial year, (25-26) we have underspent on this estimate by 128.09. Most of the underspend relates to the Clerk's salary which was overestimated. However, other items of expenditure came in under budget, for example Insurance which cost 486. 56 instead of the estimated 525. We have arranged a three-year deal with our Insurers; so that we should gain a deal of security with this significant item of expenditure. We have also, thanks to Claire, benefited from an arrangement whereby we will not need to pay for consumables for the Defibrillator.

Our estimated Budget for 2026-27 is **4428.**
The options are, as set out below in the Precept Letter from East Suffolk Council :

'This means that if your precept requirement was to be the same as for the current year 2025/26 (i.e. £4,454.00), this would result in a charge of £26.33 for a Band D property and this charge will show as 0.61% change on the 2026/27 Council Tax bills against the Parish element.
If the Parish Council wished to keep its tax charge the same as 2025/26 (i.e. £26.17) which would show as a 0% change on the 2026/27 council tax bill, a precept of £4,426.13 would need to be requested.'

a) **It appears that the current Precept Requirement matches our Budget well, though it will show as an increase in the charge we are requesting. (+17p for a Band D Property).**

b) **If the Meeting prefers that the Parish Council's claim does not show an increase in the charge we are requesting, then a claim of 4426, which matches very closely the Budget Estimate, (but with no wiggle room), would do that.**

c) **Our General Reserve of 2416.75 is an improvement on last year's Reserve of 1745.81.**

Sue Read
016/01/25