

Budget setting for 2023/2024 for Shimpling Parish Council

1) Introduction

This note sets out the proposals for setting a budget for the Parish Council (PC) for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024.

A working group to review this year's budget, and start the work on next year's budget met on 1st November including Councillors Dunkley, Haselhurst and Shrimpton and the Responsible Finance Officer N. Byford. This note summarises the work of the group and sets out the issues the council must consider at the next full council meeting on 21st November 2022.

Obviously, the PC need to know what their Tax Base will be (this sets out the number of contributors). The PC should get that by 17th November. In the mean time, we can use the tax base from last year to give some rough calculations. This financial year the tax base used was 198.73. If you divide our precept, £10,413 by the tax base. it shows that each rate payer had to contribute £52.40 for a Band D property. Lower bands pay less, higher bands pay more.

The precept we set must reflect the budget that we set, i.e known income less planned outgoings leaves a figure that we have to raise by precept. As we get no income (apart from the recycling) the precept will have to cover all planned spending.

2) Budget

See attached spreadsheet for the draft budget for next year. Significant items of note:

- a) Clerk wages increased. Pay proposal includes spine point rise to £12.97 (yet to be agreed) plus estimated 2% COL rise not yet announced by NALC
- b) Insurance to be slightly less budgeted than this year.
- c) Fire safety inspection price increased but not anticipating any replacement fire safety equipment as was replaced in 2020.
- d) Communication line to stay the same, parish newsletter and website hosting fees.
- e) The budget for accounting has increased as the external audit fee needs to be accounted for, if we do work on the Village Hall and get grant money then this could likely take us into the bracket for needing an external audit again. This covers payroll fee, Scribe accounts software, Internal audit and external audit.
- f) PC expenses / admin covers the Clerks expenses (fuel, printer ink, paper etc), the SALC membership fee and general admin fees. We have decreased the general admin fees slightly.
- g) The laptop and cover line is unchanged.
- h) The Village Hall maintenance line is underspent this year currently but it was agreed to take this line out of the budget, we also have £3000 in Village Maintenance reserves if this needs to be used.
- i) Village Hall rates line has a tiny increase to cover that cost or this year.
- j) A Village Hall lease line has been put to £0, with the idea that £1300 that is in the Village Hall Lease reserves will be enough to renew the lease next year.

- k) Village Maintenance includes the dog waste bins, grass cutting and noticeboard, it is anticipated the costs for this will be much higher this year due to a grass cutting increase in the areas that are covered as well as costings. SID maintenance and litter and dog bins have also had a slight increase.
- l) Play area equipment to stay the same for this year. This is for the annual inspection and for the arial runway inspection, as well as any general maintenance needed.
- m) The training costs line has been removed.
- n) The VAT line has been removed as we claim the VAT back, so although it is a payment, it is recouped.
- o) The WIFI line has also been removed as it was suggested that the Village Hall may fund this.
- p) The PC will hopefully be about on budget for the 2022/23 year, but we will be able to review this again after the January and March meetings. Any underspend will go back into the reserves and any overspend will be taken from the reserves.
- q) The budget increase proposed at this stage would need an increase in the precept of £852 which is 8.183% (subject to tax base figure).

The draft budget for 2023/24 is proposed at £11,270.00. However, we anticipate taking £5 from the bank interest. Therefore, our precept would be £11,265.00 (subject to agreement and/or adjustment at full council. See attached.

3) Precept

The budget must be agreed before the precept set. However, a Precept of £11,265.00 would mean a rate for Band D of £56.68 based on last years Tax Base. That would be a £4.28 rise on last year or 8.183%.

4) Reserves

Reserves at the start of the year stood at £34,491.72 including ringfenced CIL money of £1,970.63. Reserves have been earmarked by the PC as follows:

1) Maintenance contingency fund for Village Hall	£3,000.00
2) New Laptop for council in 2023/24	£1,500.00
3) Repair/maintenance of Play Equipment	£2,500.00
4) Village Hall Lease renewal	£1,300.00
5) Elections	£1,000.00
6) Covid Fund	£12,487.11

7) WIFI	£3,219.63
Total Earmarked reserves	£25,006.74
Total Ringfenced CIL fund	£3,941.26
Total General reserves	£4,698.00
Total Reserves	£33,646.00

5) Previous Shimpling Precepts

Tax Year	Tax Base	Total Precept	Band D
2022/23	198.73	£10,413.00	£52.40
2021/22	192.18	£9,986.44	£51.96
2020/21	189.08	£9,743.00	£51.52
2019/20	185.40	£9,519.00	£51.34
2018/19	183.80	£7,106.00	£38.66
2017/18	182.47	£7,100.32	£39.01
2016/17	184.02	£6,807.93	£36.99
2015/16	184.60	£6,853.27	£37.12

Submitted for resolution at full council 21st November 2022.

Natasha Byford
Proper Officer and Clerk to Shimpling Parish Council

6th November 2022