

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

RFO Budget and Precept 2024/25 report for APC Finance Committee

I have looked at each budget line to see where changes could be made. Due to APC having no Clerk I have proposed a potential budget but this does show slight increase in precept. This can be reduced if APC wish to keep the same as last year by changing the ringfenced reserves. It is recommended to not amend the expenditure lines as the majority remain the same, only changes have been made when inflation has been advised from companies and the recent Clerk pay discussion with eSALC.

The proposed budget for 2024/25 is attached.

Budget 2024/25

On the attached budget document, you can see last year's figures, budget for this year [2023/24], proposed year end and the proposed budget for 2024/25. There are minor changes, these are listed below:

INCOME

- APC only receive income from allotment rent and payment for the Pavilion.
APC are very much reliant on the Precept.

EXPENDITURE

Most expenditure lines remain the same this year. Any notable changes are listed below:

- Staff costs have been altered based on the recent advert following eSALC advice. The hourly rate needs confirming with new Clerk so exact figures can be worked out as advert stated £26ph. You will see I have based it on 25hrs @ £21.53ph at the moment. Mileage may increase if the new Clerk needs a lot of face to face training/meetings with Cllrs.
- Reduction in admin as printing less and the new printer is very efficient.
- Grass cutting slight reduction due to savings within the contract.
- Bins have been increased following the recent letter from WDC stating their increases.
- Clock remains same for this year to cover the work costs and the UKPN bill which has still not been moved forward.
- Finally, ear marked reserves. You will see in the reserve box on the budget sheet, the proposed money ringfenced for this budget. It is a total of £11,000 which is broken down by:
Playground £500
Election £500
Tye Rd resurfacing £5,000
High Street Traffic Plan £5,000

Reserves 2024/25

If the budget is approved, as proposed, the ringfenced amounts will change to the below.

General Reserves	£17,140.00
Tye Rd surface	£25,000.00
Playground	£1,263.07
NDP	£500.00
High St Traffic Plan	£15,000.00
Election costs	£500.00
Christmas tree	£0.00
CIL money	£762.07
TOTAL	£60,165.14

CIL money needs to be spent in 2024 or needs to return to SDNPA.

Precept 2024/25

Last year the Precept was £55,252. At present, there will need to be an increase by £1,484. Cllrs can reduce this if they wish by altering any lines in the expenditure if they feel savings can be made and the earmarked reserves.

The tax base figure for 2024/25 has not been published yet, it is due imminently. I will be able to advise on precept increase/decrease when budget is confirmed and the information is received from WDC.

Submitted for your information. Please note that I will not be present at the meeting but can answer questions prior to the meeting and Locum Clerk Paul Richards will be in attendance to manage the meeting. I will liaise with the Chair after the meeting to make any amendments, so it is ready for sign off at the January 2024 meeting where hopefully the new Clerk will be in position.

Victoria Rutt
Locum Clerk and RFO
29th November 2023