

Hawkley Parish Council. 2024.25 Budget and Precept proposal

Supporting documents:

- HPC Budget vs Actual 23.24 LIVE
- 2024.25 Budget Proposal Final

2023.2024:

- Taking into account a grant from Cllr Louisson of £1,000 that was received at the end of 2022.23, **Hawkley Parish Council is on budget for 2023.24**
- Approved budget for 2023.24 was £17,209 (column D on Budget vs Actual 23.24 LIVE)
- The agreed precept request for 2023.24 was £16,000

Opening bank balance 1.4.2023	£13,411
Income (inc anticipated bank interest)	£16,275
Forecast expenditure for 2023.24	£18,275
Forecast bank balance 31.3.2024	£11,411

- The forecast expenditure includes (column R on Budget vs Actual 23.24 LIVE):
 - The approved budget for repairs to the Upper Green phone box
 - A refurbishment of the fingerpost sign at Oakshott
 - Approval of extra funding for the Ponds project
- Reserves (Forecast): £11,411.
 - £8,411 is recorded for free reserves
 - An uncontested election this year means that the reserve for election costs (£3,000) can be carried forward as a designated reserve against a future contest.
 - **NB.** The designation of reserves for a specific purpose allows us to determine how much we need in reserves at any particular time – but the designation is not irreversible. If an urgent item of expenditure comes up that is not covered by our budget, it is always open to us to reprioritise expenditure needs.

2024.2025:

- **The proposed budget for 2024.25 is £17,400** (column V on Budget vs Actual 23.24 LIVE):
 - This takes into account the published NJC National Pay Scales for 2023.24.
 - It includes a percentage increase on all fees including insurance
 - The budget includes funding for training for Cllrs and the Clerk
 - It includes some funding for all the projects that have been discussed at recent PC meetings:
 - Parish website
 - Pond refurbishment and maintenance
- **The proposed precept for 2024.25 is £17,000**
 - This 6.25% increase would provide insurance against:

- unexpected project costs such as the Ponds or possible Highways project on Stairs Hill
- maintenance works such as the mowing of Upper Green returning to the PC
- preparing to take on the Lengthsman costs when funding ceases – likely 2025.26
- rebuild the reserves held by the PC
- The alternative to not increasing the precept would be reviewing the budget mid-year and if necessary, cutting spend eg not mowing verges and/or reducing allocation of grants.

Katherine Horton

Clerk to HPC. 27 November 2023