

Clerk Budget and Precept notes
CVPC 20th January 2026
Draft Budget 2026-2027

This report outlines the draft budget for the Parish Council for the financial year 2026-2027. The proposed total expenditure is £11,692, which represents an increase of £302 (or 2.65%) from the previous year. This increase includes a specific allocation of £400 designated for the purchase and installation of new road signs intended to help alleviate parking issues in the parish.

Reserve Allocations

In accordance with the recommendations from the Internal Audit conducted in 2024/2025, the Parish Council is committed to maintaining a suitable reserve fund to cover unforeseen expenses and support community initiatives. The following allocations are proposed:

Future Election Costs: A proposal to allocate £500 will bring the current reserve balance for election costs (currently £1,250) up to a level ready to cover the significant expenditure associated with the next Parish Council election, due in two years.

Village Improvements: An allocation of £200 will contribute to the current Village Improvements reserve (currently £650). This fund will support ongoing projects aimed at enhancing the village, such as the proposed pond improvements.

General Reserves: An allocation of £200 is proposed to bolster the general contingency fund, which is estimated to hold £2,394 at the end of the current financial year. This increase helps move the council closer to the recommended financial position of holding three to twelve months of general reserves for unexpected circumstances.

Impact on Precept (Household Tax)

The proposed precept of £11,692 for 2026-2027 equates to an annual charge of £80.03 per Council Tax Band D property, based on a provisional Tax Base of 146.1.

Crucially, the Tax Base for Cuckmere Valley has increased significantly from 134.8 to 146.1. Since the total precept is divided among a larger Tax Base, the charge per household decreases. This reduction may be attributed to fewer single occupancy houses and recent changes to second home Council Tax rates.

Consequently, the Band D rate for 2026-2027 is £80.03, representing a £4.47 decrease from last year's rate of £84.50.

Calculation $£11,692 / 146.1$

This draft budget effectively covers essential operational expenses while allocating funds to parish projects (new signage) and strengthening the reserve fund, thereby ensuring the long-term financial stability and effective service delivery of the Parish Council.