

## **Budget setting for 2026/2027 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 2026 to March 2027.

A working group to review this year's budget, and start the work on next year's budget met on 13<sup>th</sup> October including Councillors Dunkley, Shrimpton, Rooke 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 10th November 2025.

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 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 206.11. If you divide our precept, £13,790.00 by the tax base. it shows that each rate payer had to contribute £66.91 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 a tiny income from bank interest, newsletter advertising and 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 £15.82 (yet to be agreed) plus estimated 5% COL rise not yet announced by NALC
- b) Insurance quotes awaiting, normally around £1000-£1200
- c) Communication line to stay the same, parish newsletter and website hosting fees.
- d) The budget for accounting has stayed the same. This covers payroll fee, Scribe accounts software, Internal audit and external audit.
- e) PC expenses / admin covers the Clerks expenses (fuel, printer ink, paper etc), the SALC membership fee and general admin fees. We have increased the general admin fees slightly.
- f) The laptop and cover line is unchanged. Possible we may purchase the new laptop next year.
- g) The Village Hall maintenance line for day to day running, we also have £3250 in Village Maintenance reserves if this needs to be used.
- h) Village Hall rates line staying the same.
- i) Village Maintenance includes the dog waste bins, grass cutting and noticeboard, it is anticipated the costs for this will be slightly higher this year due to a small increase in grass cutting fees.
- j) Play area equipment to stay the same for this year. This is for the annual inspection, as well as any general maintenance needed.
- k) The training costs line to stay the same, hopefully we will get a new Cllr so may be worth offering them the Cllr training.

- l) The PC currently look to be about on budget for the 2025/26 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.
- m) The budget increase proposed at this stage would need an increase in the precept of £615 which is 4.45% (subject to tax base figure).

**The draft budget for 2026/27 is proposed at £15,725.00. However, we anticipate taking £120 from the bank interest and £400 from advertising. Therefore, our precept would be £15,205.00 (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 £15,205.00 would mean a rate for Band D of £74.61 based on last years Tax Base. That would be a £7.70 rise on last year or 11.52%.

### 4) Reserves

Reserves currently stood at £20,490.73, including ringfenced CIL money of £3,061.56. Reserves have been earmarked by the PC as follows:

1) Maintenance contingency fund for Village Hall	£3250.00
2) New Laptop for council in 2026/27	£1,500.00
3) Repair/maintenance of Play Equipment	£2,250.00
4) Village Hall Lease renewal	£1,500.00
Total Earmarked reserves	£8,500.00
Total Ringfenced CIL fund	£3,061.56
Total General reserves	£8,929.18
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>£20,490.74</b>

### 5) Previous Shimpling Precepts

Tax Year	Tax Base	Total Precept	Band D
2025/26	206.11	£13,790.00	£66.91

2024/25	202.42	£12,700.00	£62.74
2023/24	198.91	£11,265.00	£56.63
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 10th November 2025.

Natasha Byford  
Proper Officer and Clerk to Shimpling Parish Council

15<sup>th</sup> October 2025