

SUBJECT: BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025-2026

REPORT TO: WARDLE PARISH COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 6th January 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The majority of the Parish Council’s annual budget is raised through the Precept. This is an amount paid by each household in the parish, through their Council Tax payment, which is determined by the Parish Council.

The Precept income is often supplemented through grants.

Councillors suggest and debate potential new projects, services or activities and discuss and debate whether to revise aspects of the Parish Council’s work.

The Precept (that amount of the Council Tax which is collected on behalf of the Parish Council by Cheshire East Council) is determined by the budget required.

The latest date for the precept request to Cheshire East Council is Friday, 17th January 2025.

2. FORWARD PLANNING 2025-2026

Members to consider the suggested 2025-2026 Budget detailed below, together with the Taxbase information, in order to agree a Precept for the next Financial Year:-

Budget Head	Budget Allocated 2024-2025	Proposed Budget 2025-2026
Office Expenses	£780.00	£780.00
Website/ICT Costs		£150.00
Insurance	£620.00	£300.00
Meeting Room Hire		£100.00
Lengthsman		£1,150.00
Pinfold Maintenance		£1,000.00
Parish Improvements	£1,000.00	£500.00
Election Charges 2027		£125.00
Bank Charges		£72.00
Total Forecasted Expenditure (this figure excludes the Lengthsman as this is funded via the Parish Compact)		£3,027.00

3. PRECEPT

Cheshire East Council has fixed its Taxbase for the financial year 2025/26. The Taxbase for Wardle Parish Council area is as follows:

2025/26 Taxbase	77.88
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For information, your previous year's taxbase and precept was:

2024/25 Taxbase	80.48
2024/25 Precept	£1,500
2024/25 Band D Equivalent	£18.64

4. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

It appears that Wardle Parish Council has not increased its Precept for many years, and now finds itself in a position, where it is must increase its Precept by what appears to be a significant sum of money, to cover the necessary items of expenditure.

- (i) Due to the decrease in Taxbase, from 80.48 to 77.88, if Wardle Parish Council **RETAINS THE SAME** Band D Equivalent sum per household, it will request a Precept in the sum of **£1,451.68**. **This figure will not cover anticipated expenditure, which is more than double this amount.**
- (ii) Wardle Parish Council needs a Precept of at least **£3,027.00**. This represents an increase of 102%.

Whilst this seems like a huge increase on paper, in practical terms, this means that each household will pay a sum of £38.87 in the Council Tax, for its Precept, which is an increase of £20.23 for the year, or 39p per week, per household.

RECOMMENDATION

That Wardle Parish Council authorises the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to submit a Precept Request for 2025-2026 to Cheshire East Council, for the sum of **£3,027.00**