

Notes on the Budget 24-25

1. Are recommending keeping the precept the same as last year as it was raised considerably to cover the cost of the Planning Consultants and the Parish Council need to start increasing the general reserves.
2. Bank Interest is averaging at about £13 a month at the moment but interest rates do vary, so have put an amount of £156
3. A VAT reclaim was done earlier in the year for £972. If a VAT reclaim was done today it would only be for about £30 but there are five more months to go.
4. It is difficult to budget for other income as it is unexpected.
5. Salaries have been increased by 10% as the Pay Award for 2023 has yet to be decided and the Parish Council will also need to allow for 2024. This is based on the Clerk working four hours a week
6. HMRC payments are covered under the salary figure
7. This could be removed as mileage is not really claimed
8. The Parish Council currently pay £6.50 a month for home working allowance, the annual figure is £78.00
9. A 10% increase has been entered, although Idverde have been contacted for prices for next year, these are still waiting to come in
10. Have increased to £1000 as I would like to complete the first two years of the Community Governance Degree, this costs £3,250 a year but, if possible, I would like to request that Ashwick Parish Council contribute £500 a year over the next two years. The rest will hopefully be covered by other Councils. This will then also leave £500 for any further training both for the Clerk and Councillors.
11. This has been increased to £6000 as the Village Hall increase their grant payment every year, the Parish Council have also started giving £500 to the Village Festival and £500 to the Village Magazine.
12. This has been kept at £800 as insurance prices are going up but nearer the date of renewal quotes will be obtained for next year.
13. This has been kept the same, it includes membership to the SLCC, SALC, ICO
14. This has been increased as the Parish Council recently appointed an internal auditor at the cost of £190 and if Councils exceed £25,000 in expenditure or income, submission to the external auditor is required, this costs about £250.
15. This has been slightly reduced as the Parish Council is now meeting every six weeks instead of monthly.
16. This could be removed
17. There is annual purchase of the remembrance wreath every year which is under donations.

18. It is advisable to put something towards elections but as the Parish Council is still looking for members this has been left empty
19. This has been increased as there are plans to produce a Design Statement / Community Plan / Design Code which will need a budget, also there is also the subject of bus shelters which will happen one day.
20. Have slightly reduced from last year
21. Have increased the village maintenance as costs are slowly being devolved down from Somerset Council and the Parish Council needs to be prepared.