

Council Report
11 January 2023

1. For the past two years the Council has agreed a 0% increase to the precept, as it held strong reserves due to sound financial management, along with CIL funds from the forthcoming developments.
2. This proposed budget continues the strategy of planning for the future, by continuing to build up the existing building maintenance, streetlighting, play equipment and grounds vehicle earmarked funds.
3. A significant amount of CIL money and S106 monies have been received in the last two years, with more to come. A plan for using these funds has been put into place by the CIL and Commuted Sum Working Group, and is included with the budget for information, the biggest of these being the new sports hall, which has just received planning permission. There are minimal new projects planned for this forthcoming year from the precept, with the exception of an update to the Neighbourhood Development Plan, and potentially changing the bollard lighting on Harts Lane.
4. The tax base is the number of properties in Cringleford who pay precept. Due to the increase in houses, the Cringleford tax base has increased from 1999 in 22/23 to 2194 in 23/24. This brings about a natural increase to the precept amount to be received by the Council.
5. The level of precept has to be recalculated each year in line with current projects and expenditure, to cover the difference between income and expenditure. The Finance Advisory Group considered many options this year and, due to the huge increase in expenditure in large part caused by long-term gas and electric contracts ending, agreed that an increase would be required. Council then considered the options at their November 2022 meeting and agreed that a 5% increase would be acceptable. This would involve using reserves of £66k, whilst still leaving the remaining reserves in a strong condition.
6. Therefore, Members of the Finance Advisory Group (FAG) are recommending to Council a precept of £364204 for 2023/24, which is an increase of £48362 on the precept. The Band D rate will increase from £158, to £166 per household per year, or 15p per week.
7. At 31 March 2022 the Council had funds totalling £2,329,601.00. Councils are recommended to hold a general reserve equivalent to 50-100% of precept, for emergencies. Some of this money is held in earmarked reserves, ring fenced funds



(CIL /S106) and long-term maintenance funds.

8. The general budget has been calculated excluding ringfenced funds as these have to be spent in specific areas.
9. Assuming a precept of £364,204 is agreed, the projected income is £ 483,163 compared with outgoings of £549,460 (see appendix) – a deficit of £66,297, which would be taken from general reserves. This would leave the general reserves at £776,654.08 on 31 March 2024 (including the building, streetlight playground and grounds equipment funds). Deducting these funds leaves a healthy balance of £433,607.08.
10. In Summary, if this budget is agreed the March 2024 year end position should be:

Total in bank account 31 March 2024	£ 2,988,468.76
<i>Minus current earmarked funds:</i>	
<i>CIL money</i>	<i>1,869,070.83</i>
<i>Bus stop maintenance fund</i>	<i>£10,738.29</i>
<i>Commuted sums</i>	<i>£332,005.56</i>
<i>Building Maintenance Funds</i>	<i>£343,047.00</i>
Total in general spend 31 March 2023	£433,607.08

Building maintenance funds could be used in an emergency situation if required as these have been earmarked by the parish council, rather than legal CIL and S106 agreements.

11. This budget allows Cringleford Parish Council to adequately manage all expenses. leaving a healthy reserve to cover any emergencies or unexpected costs.

Sonya Blythe
Responsible Financial Officer
December 2022

