

1. In 2025/26 a 2.8% precept increase was approved by Council, which followed a 8% increase the previous year.
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 reserves(EMR). A new EMR has also been created, made of allotment income, to cover maintenance of the site once the S106 money is used.
3. A significant amount of CIL money and S106 monies have been received in the last few 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 majority of existing CIL money was spent on The Jubilee Centre, but a sizeable amount is still expected.
4. There are several projects planned for this forthcoming year from the precept, - continuing the update to the Neighbourhood Development Plan, a new website, continuing to expand Christmas decorations and a Christmas event, a water bowser or portable standpipe for trees, promotion costs for buildings, and a new floor cleaner for the Pavilion. Long-term spending plans have been drafted by the CIL & Commuted Sum group for CIL and S106 funds, including items such as the pavilion carpark resurface and a potential committee room at The Willow Centre. More immediate plans are for the pump track and Parish Partnership Scheme costs.
5. 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 2459 in 25/26 to 2676 in 26/27. This brings about a natural increase to the precept amount to be received by the Council.
6. At 31 March 2025 the Council had funds totalling £1,845,861 comprising of general reserves, earmarked reserves, ring fenced funds (CIL /S106) and long-term maintenance funds. Best practice states that 50-100% of precept should be held in general reserves, as part of sound financial management. As a Council with significant assets, we have always worked to hold the higher amount in case of emergencies.
7. 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 several options this year and are recommending a budget that freezes that Band D amount at 2025/26 levels. Because of the increase in tax base this will leave a surplus between income and expenditure of £21,500. FAG propose for this amount to be paid into the playground repair / replacement earmarked reserve to cover future costs. Due to the ageing of existing play areas, more is required than the current amount currently being paid in. This will be properly reviewed for the 27/28 budget.

8. Taking the above into account, Members of the Finance Advisory Group (FAG) are recommending to Council a precept of £492,384 for 2026/27. This is an increase of £39,928 on the precept, however the Band D rate will freeze at £184 per household per year, meaning no additional costs to residents.
9. The general budget has been calculated excluding ringfenced funds as these should be spent in specific areas.
10. Assuming a precept of £492,384 is agreed, the projected 2026/27 income is £692,469 compared with outgoings of £670,939 (see appendix). This would leave the bank account at an estimated £1,575,375 on 31 March 2027, including £697,902 of earmarked funds.
11. In Summary, if this budget is agreed the March 2027 year end position should be:

Total in bank account 31 March 2027	£1,575,375
<i>Minus current earmarked funds:</i>	
<i>CIL money</i>	<i>£19,913</i>
<i>Bus stop maintenance fund</i>	<i>£10,476</i>
<i>Commuted S106 sums</i>	<i>£130,461</i>
<i>Maintenance Funds</i>	<i>£537,051</i>
Total in general spend 31 March 2027	£877,474

Maintenance funds could be used in an emergency situation if required as these

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have been earmarked by the parish council, rather than legal CIL and S106 agreements.

12. Council has previously acknowledged that precept increases are possible in the future when S106 funds expire, which are currently used for open-space routine payments. This budget has started to work towards this change, by building up the playground EMR, and budgeting the groundsman entirely from precept
13. This budget allows Cringleford Parish Council to adequately manage all expenses, leaving an adequate reserve to cover any emergencies or unexpected costs.

Sonya Blythe
Responsible Financial Officer
January 2026



Appendix.

Budget 2026/27 (excludes CIL / Commuted sum spend)						
		PC	TWC	Pav	TJC	
Predicted Income						
Precept and Grants	492,384.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	492,384.00
Facility /allotment hire	1,405.00	94,410.00	20,256.27	30,162.60		146,233.87
Grass cutting income	5,636.16	0.00	0.00	0.00		5,636.16
Sports club hire	0.00	0.00	7,912.06	6,000.00		13,912.06
Nursery	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,788.00		12,788.00
Misc	10,000.00	2,856.40	4,246.00	4,412.80		21,515.20
	509,425.16	97,266.40	32,414.33	53,363.40		692,469.29
Predicted Expenditure						
Salaries	130,968.00	121,157.20	48,329.78	24,036.75		324,491.73
General admin /misc /donations	39,133.00	8,971.00	6,408.00	4,713.56		59,225.56
Streetlighting	8,689.80	0.00	0.00	0.00		8,689.80
Trees, grounds and sport (inc allotment)	31,997.60	0.00	5,986.36	1,200.00		39,183.96
Rates and utilities	840.00	34,478.15	13,481.00	29,837.33		78,636.48
General repairs and maintenance (inc EV)	2,625.00	15,523.20	5,662.00	4,593.28		28,403.48
EV costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,397.60		14,397.60
Play equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Maintenance earmarked reserve funds	11,000.00	35,194.00	13,000.00	17,000.00		76,194.00
Loan repayment	0.00	26,717.00	0.00	0.00		26,717.00
Projects	9,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00		15,000.00
	234,253.40	242,040.55	92,867.14	101,778.52		670,939.61