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| <i>This budget prioritises</i>   |
| 1. Council Improvement measures. Staff hours & training (CILCA completion course cost & hours) & councillor training (Target: achieve general power of competence) - Note, Jen works 50 hrs per month (up 30 hours from last clerk + additional 17 hrs per month for 2026/27 to complete CILCA). |
| 2. Building trust with community through communications & engagement, visible events, improved festive lights, & projects, community grant giving to a range of orgs that connect with wide range of parishioners. (Target 500 mailing list)   |
| 3. Planning and saving for improved environment (footpaths & bridleways) and biodiversity initiatives (Target: Finalised biodiversity plan and approval of matched footpath project with LCC, hopefully King Lane, but possibly others.)   |
| 4. Fiscal planning to ensure that income covers expenses in years to come. (Target: Income from precept, grants, and other income fully funds budget by 2029)  |

| Expenditure                          | Proposed 2026/2027 Budget | 26/27 budget notes Notes  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Regular Admin Costs</b>           |                           |   |  |
| Room Hire                            | £1,280.00                 | £60x12 for office =£720 + £30 x 12 for meeting room = £360 (£1080) Extra for whole council training &   |  |
| Stationery                           | £500.00                   | Toner Cartridges, paper, staples, folders/dividers, cleaning supplies for office, stamps  |  |
| Books/Training                       | £1,100.00                 | £100 per councillor, assuming increase to 11 Councillors  |  |
| IT                                   | £3,341.00                 | Purchase of new laptop New Laptop (£500), wifi extender (£50) and toner £150, virtual phone number £60, mailchimp, £180, microsoft office £55.20, Orange crush £1733, Scribe £564, Elementor  |  |
| Salary and related costs             | £20,755.00                | Clerk salary costs are estimated at £15,249 for April–December 2026 (67 hours per month at SCP 31, including employer NI and pension), and £5,506 for January–April 2027 (50 hours per month at SCP 33 following CILCA completion, including a cost-of-living uplift and employer on-costs), giving a total |  |
| Ranger                               | £9,510.00                 | Includes formal garden budget, combined contract  |  |
| Insurance                            | £1,000.00                 | Possibly need to revise. Need to update asset register and see if anything increases costs.   |  |
| Audit Fees                           | £778.00                   | Internal (£300) and external audit fees (378) and penalties/additional consultation   |  |
| Membership/subscriptions             | £1,471.00                 | YLCA/NALC (£1271, SLCC (£200)   |  |
| Newsletters                          | £2,000.00                 | Assumes two newsletters   |  |
| Allotments                           | £450.00                   | Not on previous budget, Income of £450 for this. (Allocated to Fees/Subs)   |  |
| <b>Maintenance</b>                   |                           |   |  |
| Asset maintenance                    | £1,000.00                 | Telephone kiosk, defib, little free library, items on asset register, parish office decorating/re-org   |  |
| Dog waste bags                       | £300.00                   | Agreed at November meeting  |  |
| Mini flowerbeds                      | £900.00                   | Around street signs, seasonal   |  |
| Wild flowerbeds                      | £2,200.00                 | Current beds along King lane, possible additional along King lane and in Birkdale   |  |
| <b>Other agreed costs/projects</b>   |                           |   |  |
| Festive lights and Tommy light       | £5,720.00                 | Festive lights at £220 each, Tree lights at £4620 (Was £150 now £165 per light) was £4400 + possible a  |  |
| Biodiversity project                 | £2,000.00                 | Development of strategy, initial work   |  |
| <b>Events</b>                        |                           |   |  |
| Band Concert and/or Community Picnic | £600.00                   | Two bands, chairs and advertising.  |  |
| Winter event                         | £436.00                   | Posters, outreach, Santa or other attraction  |  |
| Annual Parish Meeting                | £300.00                   | Refreshments, promotion, possible speaker,  |  |
| <b>Grants</b>                        |                           |   |  |
| Grants                               | £8,000.00                 | Grants- Council priority to fund a range of community organisation as part of visibility and engagement   |  |
| S137                                 | £1,000.00                 | Health services, adult social care, staffing costs of a charity providing personal support, youth clubs   |  |
| <b>Total Budget</b>                  | <b>£64,641.00</b>         |   |  |
| <b>Reserves</b>                      |                           |   |  |
| General Reserves                     | £42,016.65                | 65% of budget for the year  |  |
| Earmarked Reserves: Elections        | £8,000.00                 | Elections   |  |
| Earmarked Reserves Footpaths         | £10,000.00                | Possibly King Lane footpath, or alternate footpath project in 2028  |  |
| Earmarked Reserve Biodiversity       | £15,000.00                | Funds set aside to implement plan   |  |
| <b>Total fixed reserves</b>          | <b>£75,016.65</b>         |   |  |
| Remaining available to draw down     | £13,983.35                | I've left a buffer here. This budget commits the council to hold general reserves of 65% of operating budget. If the current budget forecast is accurate, the Council will be able to add this £13K into general reserves which will be a healthier 87% of operating budget.                                |  |

|  | <b>Scenario 1</b><br>£55,080.00,<br>£14.90 band<br>d charge,<br>£0.98 / 7%<br>increase | <b>Scenario 2</b><br>£56,000, 15.23<br>band d<br>charge, £1.23<br>/8.8% increase | <b>Scenario 3</b><br>£57,120,<br>15.53 band d<br>charge<br>£1.53 / 11%<br>percent<br>increase, |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Income</b>                                |  |  |  |
| Precept                                      | £55,080.00   | £56,000.00   | £57,120.00   |
| Council tax Grant                            | £926.00  | £926.00  | £926.00  |
| Interest                                     |  |  |  |
| Allotments                                   | £450.00  | £450.00  | £450.00  |
| Vat return                                   | £6,000.00  | £6,000.00  | £6,000.00  |
| CIL  | £0.00  | £0.00  | £0.00  |
| Grant  |  |  |  |
| Other  |  |  |  |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>£62,456.00</b>  | <b>£63,376.00</b>  | <b>£64,496.00</b>  |
| Shortfall (would need to draw from reserves) | £2,185.00  | £1,265.00  | £145.00  |
| Unrestricted reserves remaining              | £11,798.35   | £12,718.35   | £13,838.35   |