

## Long Man Parish Council

### Notes on the proposed Budget 2024-2025 for discussion on 8 January 2024

Brief annotations are included on the budget sheet but other key points are:

1. **Revenue** - there are no sources of revenue income so it falls to the precept as a guaranteed source of funds to support the council's activities in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.
2. **Clerk's costs** – councils have been advised to include a 6% uplift in wage costs for next year. Travel reimbursement remains the same.
3. **Equipment** - In 2023/24 a designated council laptop & software was purchased which took current year budget into the red. However, going forward into the next year will require only monthly mobile costs and renewal of IT security.
4. **Website** – saw an overspend in current year due to new set up charge and first annual support and domain registration charges. This will settle out in 2024/25 to an annual support charge at half the cost of previous provider.
5. **Insurance** –insurance premiums are increasing across the board, so there is an increase in this budget heading compared with actual cost in 23/24
6. **Village improvements/ maintenance/repairs** –  
There is an anticipated underspend at end of 23/24 but works are in hand within the current year for repairs to the Milton Street notice board and materials for refurbishment of the telephone box at Milton Street.  
An asset check was undertaken on 1 January which identified various maintenance issues for which quotes will be sought.  
The suggestion is for a general maintenance budget of £2000 to include the telephone box (rather than having a separate earmarked fund).
7. **Grass cutting** – costs will be reduced in 2024/25 due to the council's decision to opt for the free option of two urban cuts per year.
8. **Subscriptions** – unlikely to change massively
9. **Election expenses** – this was under budgeted 2023/24. Electoral Services have advised to plan for a fund of £2000 in anticipation of the next local election costs. This can be ear marked as a lump sum from existing general reserves or budgeted over the next three years @ £500 a year via precept.
10. **Defibrillator** – LMPC is responsible for the unit sited at the Sussex Ox.
11. **Grit bins** – It is understood to be the responsibility of Highways to fill public grit bins therefore this budget heading will be removed.
12. **Miscellaneous/ Sundries** –budgeted funds to cover parish assembly and ad hoc items.
13. **Grants** – the council can opt to include the grant fund proposals within the precept request or choose to use existing general reserve funds.

**The council is asked to consider the final draft budget, and agree any amendments. This will then be submitted to Wealden District Council as request for the 2024/25 parish precept.**