

**EAST FARDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT THE VILLAGE HALL
GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

PRESENT: Mr M Curtis (Chair), Ms M Duke, Mr P Hodgetts, Ms E Pepler, Mr B Fallon, Mr T Knott
Mrs C Burton (Clerk to the Parish Council)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: One resident

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Beesley, and WNC Councillors Parker and Harris.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 20th September 2023

The Minutes of the above meeting were agreed by all Councillors.

4. Matters Arising

ACTION	PROGRESS
Councillors Beesley and Knott to gather information from other Climate Action groups in nearby parishes, to inform possible future action.	Carried over
Councillor Curtis to scope proposals for Spring renovation work and possible costs.	Carried over
Clerk to arrange signing of July 2023 minutes by Councillor Curtis.	Done
Councillor Fallon to meet with Helen Howard to agree feasibility and way forward for speed reduction measures.	Added to agenda
Clerk to contact MP Chris Heaton-Harris to advise of the possible increase in HDC housing allocation and to ask him to support the petition.	Done
Clerk to organise a gift of thanks for Alan Langley.	Done
Councillor Curtis and Clerk to develop a village story, covering heritage information, for the website.	Carried over
Councillor Fallon to organise for replacement of the slats on The Lealand bench.	Done
Councillor Hodgetts to report the tree at the entrance of Home Farm Close on Street Doctor.	Done
Councillor Knott to obtain a rebuild cost of the War Memorial for insurance purposes.	Done. Rebuild cost estimated at £100,000.00. See 2024/25 Budget and Precept Discussion.
Councillor Beesley to organise work on the bus shelter, village hall bench and bin, and Lubenham Road bench.	Added to agenda
Councillor Hodgetts to check whether a plaque could be placed on the beech tree.	Done – not feasible
Clerk to organise for a replacement beech tree metal plaque.	Done. New metal plaque obtained and secured to existing wooden backing with longer pole by Councillor Curtis.

ACTION	PROGRESS
Clerk to apply for a bank debit card.	Done – card received
Clerk to organise a website article about virtual library membership.	Done
Councillor Fallon to report hedges at Home Farm and Spring Cottage on Street Doctor.	Done

5. Roads and Transport

- **Road Repairs**

The Clerk reported that road repairs had been completed on Main Street and Lubenham Road in October 2023. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Fallon and WNC Councillor Harris for all their efforts to get this work completed by WNC.

- **Speed Reduction Measures**

Councillor Fallon reported that he has been unable to meet with Helen Howard to date; a meeting is planned for next week.

Councillor Fallon reported that the SID statistics from 20 September 2023 to date show:

- 72,682 vehicles
- Maximum speed of 65.0 mph
- 85% percentile speed of 34.5 mph
- 61,780 vehicles were exceeding 30 mph

Councillor Fallon noted that these statistics showed a slight reduction in speeds, but it may be due to the recent road works.

6. Planning and Development

- **Applications granted** – None

- **Applications for consideration** – None

- **Applications Withdrawn**

2023/5358/FULL Two storey extension to South side of existing dwelling, abutting Greenfields. Extension to consist of ground floor living space with access to existing lounge area, stairs and 1st floor living space. Glass wall/window looking out into garden area facing West - Windmill View Marston Lane East Farndon West Northamptonshire LE16 9SL
This application was withdrawn on 31 October 2023.

- **Harborough District Council Planning Update**

Councillor Curtis had attended a public meeting on 3 November 2023, organised by Harborough MP Neil O'Brien, and had circulated feedback to Councillors. The current plan for Harborough calls for 534 houses per annum, and with the Leicester City-related increase it would be around 750. Harborough apparently has the land bank to do this. The biggest feedback from the audience was the lack of new services.

Although the duty to cooperate across council boundaries has just been abolished by the Government, the general view is that it will be replaced by something similar.

HDC have deferred the debate and decision to the next meeting on 11 December 2023.

It appears that the risk of HDC calling on the land in East Farndon parish remains the same - the bigger target could further increase the pressure to build in Northamptonshire – and so the Parish Council needs to continue monitoring the HDC plan development and take action as appropriate.

The issue of Neighbourhood Plans was raised again. Councillor Curtis outlined the pros/cons and after discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not consider undertaking the major work to develop and adopt a Neighbourhood Plan unless there is a significant legal change in its weight and protection against housing strategic/speculative development within the parish.

7. Other Matters

• Footpath Report

The Clerk reported that Mr Jonny Dargie, the Footpath Warden, had provided an update on all matters previously reported with detail of the issue, on site pictures and an update on status (outstanding versus resolved), which had been circulated to Councillors. He also provided the following:

East Farndon Parish Rights of Way (RoW) network current status

- path access and signage: all footpaths and bridleways are accessible and well signed, noting the on-going exceptions.
- the RoW network is generally in good condition albeit wet and muddy in many places.

Structural issues

- There has been some good news to report since the September update, as several issues previously reported have been resolved by the council contractors (Kier).
- One new issue has been reported to the Council since September: Harborough Road bottom end - first gate on footpath that starts near Farm Shop and heads up the hill. It looks like the fence has become rotten or damaged and as a result it is leaning into the gate which means the latch is being pressed shut and is almost impossible to open.

Meeting with Kier

- I attended a Kier drop-in clinic in October at Moulton Library and had a very insightful and helpful meeting with the Kier Team responsible for rights of way for Northamptonshire including East Farndon parish. It was very useful to get a deeper understanding of how things operate at Kier and to be able to run through the East Farndon list of current unresolved issues. My notes are below for interest:
- East Farndon RoW officer: Angela Davies is the new Kier person who is now responsible for the East Farndon area. Angela took on the role in June this year and she is very experienced and diligent - this may explain why we have seen some good progress on issues in the last few weeks. Angela confirmed that all matters should continue to be reported via the Fix My Street app.
- Statistics / Periodic inspection: there are 61 parishes in Angela's region of the county of which East Farndon is one - each parish is supposed to have all routes fully inspected every 3-5 years. East Farndon Parish has x10 RoW routes covering 11.97km - East Farndon needs to be fully inspected by the end of this calendar year which is good news. I have agreed with Angela that I will join her to do this inspection if the dates are convenient.
- Specific issues: we went through the list of outstanding issues for East Farndon that have been reported over the months/years.
- Interestingly, the route that is on the Fix My Street app for each footpath isn't necessarily the most up to date official route. Kier maintains the "official" route as things can change over time - they will send me a copy for info. This is of relevance to the wobbly / dangerous stile that we have highlighted on CP3 which apparently is not now the official route; the official route is round the end of the hedge (9m away) - we agreed that it may be appropriate to seek, with landowner approval, to remove the stile completely.

RoW Newsletter

With approval from the Parish Council, I would like to circulate a RoW Newsletter to the village as a one page A4 insert in the March Parish Magazine. This would coincide with the start of Springtime and hopefully some improved weather and longer days. The purpose of the newsletter would be to inform / remind the village residents of the rights of way in the parish, provide a map outlining the paths and some suggested routes along with a summary of the Countryside code and wildlife to watch out for.

The Parish Council felt that there may be sufficient information on the website, but would support a RoW newsletter if Mr Dargie felt it was necessary, subject to agreement of costs.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm with Mr Dargie whether the RoW website material is sufficient, to be flagged up via a newsletter article.

- **Burial Ground Committee Report**

The Clerk reported that Mr Burton had advised that the Burial Ground is in good order - grass and hedges are tidy. The last cut of the year has now taken place. No graves currently need levelling. A couple of birch saplings were removed in the Burial Ground Extension by Councillor Hodgetts. The Burial Ground Committee will carry out push tests in the Burial Ground and Churchyard in the Spring and report back to the PC. The following actions, some already discussed, are proposed by the Committee for consideration and support by the PC:

- To make the Extension a 'wild area' reducing weeds and nettles, and introducing colour; advice is needed as to how to go about this to best effect.

ACTION: Councillor Hodgetts to obtain advice on wild flower planting in the Burial Ground Extension.

- To improve the paths, in the short-term through weedkiller, but in the longer term through the introduction of some sort of mesh, and addition of further gravel. Councillor Fallon has already offered to supply gravel, but more will be needed to improve the path all the way from the church porch to the bottom of the Burial Ground. It is envisaged that a 'chain gang' of village volunteers would be a good way to achieve this, but the PC may need to set some money aside for the gravel and the mesh.

- To plant bulbs along the edges of the path along the hedge on the western side and maybe elsewhere; this will be reviewed in the New Year when it is clear where, for example, daffodils are already in place and where there might be suitable gaps.

The Parish Council supported the proposed actions and agreed any expenses (subject to Parish Council approval in advance) would be paid from the Burial Ground/Churchyard Maintenance Reserve.

- **Tree Warden Report**

The Tree Wardens, Judy Hodgetts and Jessica Oakden, had provided an up-to-date TPO schedule, which has been circulated to all Councillors. The outstanding matters relate to the re-planting of TPO trees. Michael Venton is aware of these outstanding issues and is liaising with the home/land owners concerned.

- **Police Liaison Representative & Neighbourhood Watch Report** – nothing to report.

- **Village Maintenance Tasks (including Village Sign)**

Councillor Beesley has organised a 'Dapper Village Makeover' event that is taking place from 28 October to 1 December 2023. This includes:

- Marriott Green: weeding / preparing for winter
- Weeding Harborough Road and Main Street
- Sprucing up the Bus shelter
- Painting and weeding around the bench on Lubenham Lane
- Repainting the Village Hall litter bin
- Village sign posts washing

The estimated costs are £40.00 for plants/bulbs at the bus shelter.

As regards the Village Hall bench, it was inspected by a builder who advised that the crack in the concrete could not be fixed longterm. The Parish Council agreed via email that a replacement solid wooden bench should be purchased, with the old bench being removed. The bench has been purchased.

ACTION: Councillor Curtis to organise the removal of the old and installation of the new Village Hall bench.

As regards the Lubenham Road bench, Councillor Beesley has organised an East Farndon Community Bench makeover, asking residents for ideas and designs for the bench. The estimated costs are £100.00.

ACTION: Councillor Beesley to organise renovation of the Lubenham Road bench, subject to Parish Council agreement to costs.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Beesley would like the parish to consider designing and purchasing a village sign, which would make the village stand out when driving / walking through as a point of difference; the current signage is functional but does not reflect East Farndon. It was agreed that the current maintenance tasks should be completed and then village signage discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to add Village signage to the January 2024 agenda.

- **Remembrance Sunday 2023**

The Clerk reported that the Remembrance Service on 12 November 2023 had been well attended. This year, as a result of Operation Poppy, the Parish Council had registered the event with WNC and obtained a temporary stoppage of traffic. The Parish Council had agreed via email to purchase road signs to enable this traffic application, which can now be used each year.

- **War Memorial Renovation Working Group Update**

The Clerk reported that the work on the War Memorial has been completed. John Smith, the builder, very generously deducted £3,000 from the bill. The stone plaque at the church has been cleaned. The church WWII memorial gates are currently with the blacksmith being repaired. Once this work has been completed, the Group will consider its next steps.

- **NCALC Annual Conference Feedback**

The Clerk and Councillor Knott attended on 7 October 2023 and have circulated feedback on the conference, which focussed on artificial intelligence and the future plans of WNC/NCC.

- **Mowing & Hedgecutting 2024 Contracts**

The Parish Council had received a 2024 mowing quote from its existing contractor. It is £2,000 compared to £1,975 this year. The Parish Council agreed to accept this quote. The Parish Council had also received a 2024 hedgecutting quote from its existing contractor. It is £515 per hedge cut compared to £405 this year; the contractor has provided reasons for the increase. The Parish Council agreed to accept this quote.

ACTION: Clerk to formally accept the 2024 quotes for mowing and hedgecutting.

- **Dates of 2024 Meetings**

The dates for the 2024 meetings were agreed (working on the basis of the third Wednesday in each month), starting at 7.15pm, as follows:

Full Meetings

17 January 2024

20 March 2024 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, followed by a Parish Council Meeting)

15 May 2024 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

17 July 2024

18 September 2024

20 November 2024

Provisional Meetings

21 February 2024

17 April 2024

19 June 2024

21 August 2024

16 October 2024

18 December 2024

The provisional meetings will only go ahead if there is urgent business to discuss, e.g. a planning application.

ACTION: Clerk to organise for the 2024 meeting dates to be placed on the website, and advise WNC Councillors and other village representatives accordingly.

- **Community Welfare**

Councillor Fallon and Aimee Winfield, in attendance, raised concerns that some older people in the village may be lonely, have no transport and/or support network. It was suggested that the parish could organise an informal village befriending system. The Parish Council supported this idea, but agreed that it was a village, rather than Parish Council, matter.

8. Finance

- **Bank Reconciliation (as at Close of Business on 10 November 2023)**

<u>Balance as at 18 September 2023</u>		
Current account	£5,982.49	
Deposit account	<u>£16,652.71</u>	£22,635.20
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	£5,977.50	
Interest	<u>£33.73</u>	£6,011.23
<u>Expenses</u>		
J Dargie	£58.76	
NCALC	£57.60	
Ian Mathew Jones	£1,776.00	
EON Solutions	£38.40	
D J Hensher	£234.00	
SLCC	£80.00	
T Knott	£15.30	
Yu Energy	£12.00	
Yu Energy	£47.65	
Yu Energy	£10.67	
Start Traffic Ltd	£165.35	
Jati Ltd	£467.97	
Andrew Brookes	£405.00	
C Burton	£614.08	
Marc Simons	£875.00	
Royal British Legion	£45.00	
Yu Energy	£12.36	
Yu Energy	£53.58	
Yu Energy	£11.02	
Underpayment to EON (due to overpayment on previous invoice)	<u>-£0.54</u>	-£4,979.20
<u>Balance as at 18 September 2023</u>		
Current account	£6,980.79	
Deposit account	<u>£16,686.44</u>	£23,667.23

The bank reconciliation was checked and signed by Councillor Hodgetts .

- **2024/25 Budget and Precept Discussion (including Actual v. Budgeted Spending)**

The Clerk had prepared actual v budgeted spend for 2023/24 to date; anticipated income and spending for the rest of 2023/24; and a draft budget for 2024/25 for discussion (see attached).

The Clerk advised that the current insurance premium is £697.02. The quote for this year to cover the War Memorial to £100,000.00 (currently insured for £36,000.00) is £71.34 extra. The Clerk also advised that the insurance value of street furniture, which is currently insured to the value of £36,000, is nearer to £60,000.00. The insurance quote to increase this, as well as the War Memorial cover is £106.48. The Parish Council agreed that both the War Memorial and Street Furniture insurance cover should be raised.

ACTION: Clerk to increase the insurance cover for the War Memorial and Street Furniture.

After discussion, the Councillors agreed the draft budget for 2024/25 as attached, subject to increasing the insurance cost to £1,000 in light of the above.

ACTION: Clerk to finalise 2024/25 budget and prepare 2024/25 precept request for January 2024 meeting.

- **The following payments were agreed by all Councillors**

Payee	Reason	Amount	Chq no
J Dargie	Footpath Expenses	£58.76	Online
NCALC	Training	£57.60	Online
Ian Mathew Jones	Tree Surgeon (Horsechestnut in Churchyard)	£1,776.00	Online
EON Solutions	Lighting Maintenance	£38.40	Online
D J Hensher	Timber Slats Replacement on The Lealand Bench	£234.00	Online
SLCC	Subscription	£80.00	Online
T Knott	Petrol for NCALC Conference	£15.30	Online
Yu Energy	Electricity	£12.00	Direct Debit
Yu Energy	Electricity	£47.65	Direct Debit
Yu Energy	Electricity	£10.67	Direct Debit
Start Traffic Ltd	Road signs for Operation Poppy	£165.35	Online
Jati Ltd	Replacement Village Hall Bench	£467.97	Online
Andrew Brookes	Hedge Cutting	£405.00	Online
C Burton	Oct/Nov 2023 Salary and Expenses	£614.08	Online
Marc Simons	Mowing	£875.00	Online
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Wreaths	£45.00	Online
Yu Energy	Electricity	£12.36	Direct Debit
Yu Energy	Electricity	£53.58	Direct Debit
Yu Energy	Electricity	£11.02	Direct Debit

9. Correspondence

- The Parish Council had been invited to attend an online WNC Planning Briefing on 30 November 2023. Councillors Curtis and Beesley will attend.
ACTION: Councillors Curtis and Beesley to register for the WNC Planning Briefing.
- WNC had requested a rough sleepers estimate for the parish for night of 14 November 2023. The Clerk had submitted a nil return.
- All other relevant correspondence (e.g. NCALC Newsletter) has been circulated to Councillors and shared on the village website and Facebook page where appropriate.

10. Any Other Business - None

11. Date of the next meeting – 17 January 2024
Provisional meeting date – 20 December 2023

12. Closure
The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record

Chairman _____

Dated _____

30/23

2024/25 BUDGET AND PRECEPT WORKSHEET

	Precept Agreed	Expenditure to Date	Anticipated Expenditure for Year Remaining	Anticipated Balance	
Streetlighting and Maintenance	£1,480.00	£661.54	£686.97	£131.49	See Note 1
NCALC	£280.00	£283.32		-£3.32	
Insurance	£715.00	£697.02		£17.98	
S137 Spending	£600.00	£223.08	£505.00	-£128.08	See Note 2
Training	£100.00	£48.00		£52.00	
Mowing/Hedges	£3,000.00	£1,720.82	£1,125.00	£154.18	See Note 3
Clerk Gross Salary	£3,650.00	£2,412.34	£1,316.00	-£78.34	See Note 4
Parish Council/Clerk Expenses	£700.00	£499.78	£240.00	-£39.78	See Note 5
Bin Collection	£630.00	£633.60		-£3.60	
Defibrillator Expenses	£200.00	£135.00		£65.00	
Churchyard Maintenance	£600.00	£600.00		£0.00	
TOTAL	£11,955.00	£7,914.50	£3,872.97		
Spending from Reserves (see below)		£6,065.75			
VAT		£1,525.34			
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£15,505.59			

		Receipts	Payments	Anticipated Expenditure for Year Remaining	Anticipated Balance
RESERVES					
Lighting Replacement	£3,000.00		£3,986.28		Closed
Renovation of Village Spring	£1,500.00				£1,500.00
Burial Ground/Churchyard Maintenance Work	£4,260.00		£880.00		£3,380.00
War Memorial Maintenance	£1,950.00	£6,540.50		£8,000.00	£490.50
Coronation	£250.00		£121.80		Closed
Fixed Asset Spending	£2,000.00		£1,077.67	£400.00	£522.33
TOTAL	£12,960.00	£6,540.50	£6,065.75	£8,400.00	£5,892.83

BALANCE IN ACCOUNTS @ 25 October 2023		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£7,977.75	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£16,668.04	
TOTAL		£24,645.79

LESS ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE:		
Precept related (as above)	£3,872.97	
Reserves (as above)	£8,400.00	
TOTAL		£12,272.97

PLUS ANTICIPATED INCOME		
Interest	£75.00	
TOTAL		£75.00

ESTIMATED BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024		£12,447.82
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RESERVES

Renovation of Village Spring	£1,500.00
Burial Ground/Churchyard Maintenance	£3,380.00
War Memorial Maintenance	£490.50
Fixed Asset Spending	£522.33

BALANCE - GENERAL RESERVE

£6,554.99

Plus VAT recoverable in 2024/5 in the region of **£1,525.00** (Note that any VAT payable on anticipated spending will be recoverable, so no impact on projected general reserve)

2024/25 PRECEPT NECESSARY FOR CORE ACTIVITIES

Streetlighting and Maintenance	£1,400.00	See Note 1
NCALC	£300.00	Based on NALC's advice
Insurance	£730.00	
S137 Spending	£600.00	See Note 2
Training	£100.00	Predominantly online training available
Mowing of Burial Ground/Hedges	£4,000.00	See Note 3
Clerk Gross Salary	£3,995.00	See Note 4
Parish Council/Clerk Expenses	£815.00	See Note 5
Bin Collection	£665.00	Current cost, plus inflation at 5%
Defibrillator Expenses	£200.00	
TOTAL	£12,805.00	

NOTES TO BUDGET AND PRECEPT WORKSHEET FOR 2024/25

Note 1 – Electricity/Lighting Maintenance Costs

Current Year

As regards electricity costs for the remainder of the year, it is difficult to be precise on this as we are billed seasonally (and our bills to date have been the lighter-night months) and we have a new UMS following the installation of the new street lights in February 2023 (and one updated UMS still does not appear to have been registered).

However, the new UMS shows a supply of 1,875.60 kWh. Our charges are 44.296p/kWh, plus a standing charge of 33.87p per day for each of our three electricity supply points.

So the total electricity bill for the year should be 1,875.60kWh x 44.296p = £830.82, plus a standing charge of 3 x 365 x 33.87p = £370.88, so a grand total of £1,201.70.

So far, we have paid £550.73 this year, meaning anticipated spend for the rest of the year is £650.97 (which seems about right with the seasonal adjustment).

As regards lighting maintenance, this is £36.00 a quarter, and we will pay one further bill this financial year (covering Oct – Dec 2023); the Jan – Mar 2024 bill will be received after the year end.

So total anticipated spend on street lighting and maintenance is £650.97 + £36.00 = £686.97.

Next Year

We are on a fixed electricity contract until 27 June 2025, so our electricity should remain the same, i.e. £1,201.70. Lighting maintenance is £36.00 per quarter, so £144.00 per year. So total anticipated spend is £1,345.70. I have put £1,400.00 to cover any increase in lighting maintenance.

Note 2 – S137 Spending

Current Year

I have included an estimate of £300.00 for the Winter Spruce Up, £100.00 newsletter contribution, £45.00 for Remembrance wreaths and £60.00 for new plants/bulbs for the planters.

Next Year

This year's s137 spending to date covers expenses relating to the litter pick, Queen Elizabeth II trees, gifts for Olly Boucher and Alan Langley, and the bulbs/plants for the planters. Next year, there will be a greater expense on bulbs/plants for the planters at the War Memorial (agreed at the last meeting). However, presumably some of this year's expenses are one-off. I have kept the s137 for the next year the same.

The PC may wish to consider re-classifying the bulbs/plants for the planter as PC expenses rather than s137 expenditure (there's an argument that they are a necessary expense - as the planters on Harborough Rd are part of our speed restriction measures and the War Memorial must be kept in good order – rather than a 'nice to have').

Note 3 – Mowing/Hedges

Current Year

No more hedge cutting is due this year. The final 2023 mowing invoice should be £875.00, and the March 2024 mowing invoice should be around £250.00, so £1,125 in total.

Next Year

We have accepted the mowing quote of £2,000.00 for 2024. The total payment for mowing will be more, as we will pay the mowing up until March 2024 this financial year, and then the mowing in 2025 up until 31 March 2025 next financial year (and safe to assume it will be more). So I have prudently budgeted **£2,200.00** for mowing.

As regards hedge cutting, our current hedge contractor has quoted **£1,030.00** for 2024. We may be able to get a cheaper quote, but I've gone with this figure (gives the PC some wiggle room).

Concerns have been raised that some Councillors are undertaking work that the PC ought to pay for, e.g. trimming bushes in the churchyard, so I have added in **£770** to cover this. Such expenses could also be met from the churchyard maintenance reserve.

Note 4 - Clerk's Salary

Current Year

I am currently paid £12.73 per hour, for 20 hours per month = £254.60 per month; December 2023 – March 2024 will be payable, so 4 months x £254.60 = **£1,018.40**.

On 1 April 2023, I was due to move to spine point SPC 13 (£12.97 per hour in 2022/23). In 2023/4 so far, I have been paying myself £12.73 per hour (SPC 12), as I was waiting for the pay negotiations to be completed. NALC have just advised that SPC 13 is £13.97. Therefore, SPC increase owed for the year = 12months x 20hours x (£13.97 - £12.73) = **£297.60**.

Next Year

For 2024/25, I will move to the next payscale point – current rate is £14.21 for 2022/23, and NCALC recommend budgeting a further 5% increase. So anticipated cost of Clerk's salary in 2024/25 is £14.21 x 20 hours x 12 months x 1.05 = **£3,580.92**. As usual, I have not taken my leave allowance of 29.5 hours, so as agreed previously, I am happy to be paid for these hours in April 2024, which is 29.5 x £13.97 = **£412.12**.

Note 5 – Parish Council Expenses

This Year

Firstly, please note that as agreed via email, I have set up a fixed asset reserve, and moved fixed asset related spending to that reserve from Parish Council Expenses; this means that the spending under this category is now lower than previously reported.

For the rest of this year, I have included the £10.00 per month paid to the Clerk for homeworking expenses, plus a contingency of £200.00.

Next Year

I have included the following expenses (using a 5% inflation rate [roughly] except on homeworking allowance):

DPO and ICO fees	£55.00
SLCC subscription	£100.00
Clerk homeworking allowance	£120.00
Website costs	£240.00
Microsoft Word subscription	£70.00
Printer ink and paper	£30.00
Contingency for unforeseen expenses	£200.00
Total	£815.00