

## Catsfield Parish Council

### Explanation of the increase to budget/precept for 2025/26

The Parish Council raises taxes (the Precept) as its primary income and receives some other amounts. These funds are spent on local services during the year or are reserved for spend in future years.

|                      |          | <b>Forecast<br/>2024-25</b> |          | <b>Budget<br/>2025-26</b> |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>  | <b>£</b> | <b>34,317</b>               | <b>£</b> | <b>52,375</b>             |
| including precept of | £        | 32,000                      | £        | 48,400                    |

Other income is interest received and fees from teams using the recreation ground

We also can receive CIL ( Community Infrastructure Levy) via Rother District Council

if there is housing development in the Parish. CIL funding is restricted to use on improvements in the Parish, we cannot use it for general expenditure.

*Note  
a*

### Expenditure

|                                          |          |                 |          |                 |          |
|------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Staff Costs                              | £        | 18,456          | £        | 20,313          | <i>b</i> |
| Admin, Training & Audit, Insurance..     | £        | 5,687           | £        | 5,864           | <i>c</i> |
| Grants to local organisations            | £        | 6,000           | £        | 1,000           |          |
| Consultants ( Planning)                  | £        | 1,000           | £        | 1,000           |          |
| <b>Total Admin</b>                       | <b>£</b> | <b>31,143</b>   | <b>£</b> | <b>28,177</b>   |          |
| <b>Recreation Ground &amp; Pavillion</b> | <b>£</b> | <b>8,818</b>    | <b>£</b> | <b>8,589</b>    | <i>d</i> |
| Street Lights                            | £        | 2,966           | £        | 8,930           | <i>e</i> |
| Village Car Park                         | £        | 1,211           | £        | 1,112           |          |
| Road Safety & open spaces                | £        | 3,064           | £        | 16,448          |          |
| Other                                    | £        | 450             | £        | 500             |          |
| <b>Total Outdoor spaces</b>              | <b>£</b> | <b>7,691</b>    | <b>£</b> | <b>26,990</b>   |          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>                 | <b>£</b> | <b>47,652</b>   | <b>£</b> | <b>63,756</b>   |          |
| <b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>                 |          | <b>-£13,335</b> |          | <b>-£11,381</b> |          |

**In both 2024-25 and 2025-26 we expect to spend more than our income  
This means that our reserves will reduce in both years even after increasing the precept  
in 2025-26 by 50%**

**Notes**

- a) Staff costs are up 10%. This is from pay inflation and because we now employ a qualified clerk, at the guideline pay scales.
- b) In 2024-25 we gave a grant of £6000 for improvements to the Village Hall.
- c) Major planning applications require professional knowledge for us to respond effectively.
- d) In 2025 we budget to spend an additional £5K to replace our streetlight bulbs with LED bulbs this will significantly reduce our electricity bills in the future, and reduce carbon.
- e) We have applied to ESCC to reduce the speed limits north of the Village to 30mph. This incurred £1.8K of survey costs in 2024-25 and if approved will cost circa £15k in 2025-26 to implement.

**What reserve levels (funds in the bank) do we have and how much do we need?**

We must (by law) retain sufficient funds to carry out our duties and to provide for any future projects set out in our strategic plans. The 5 year strategic plan for 2025-26 onward will be available for review and comment at the Parish Assembly on 1st May 2025  
General funds can be spent as we see fit. Earmarked funds are for specific projects with CIL funds further restricted to specific uses.

| Funds as at               | General Funds |                | Earmarked Funds |                | CIL Funds |                 | Total           |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Funds 1 April 2024        | £             | 16,800         | £               | 17,840         | £         | 64,497          | £ 99,137        |
| Surplus / Deficit 2024-25 |               | <b>-£5,315</b> |                 | <b>-£3,179</b> |           | <b>-£4,841</b>  | <b>-£13,335</b> |
| Fcast funds 31 March 2025 | £             | <b>11,485</b>  | £               | <b>14,661</b>  | £         | <b>59,656</b>   | £ <b>85,802</b> |
| Surplus / Deficit 2025-26 |               | <b>£8,619</b>  |                 | <b>-£5,000</b> |           | <b>-£15,000</b> | <b>-£11,381</b> |
| Budget 31 March 2026      | £             | <b>20,104</b>  | £               | <b>9,661</b>   | £         | <b>44,656</b>   | £ <b>74,421</b> |
| Notes                     |               | <i>f</i>       |                 | <i>g</i>       |           | <i>h</i>        |                 |

- f) Our general fund is for unexpected items. UK Gov guidance is for this to be approximately 50% of the precept. We have increased our precept in 2025-26 to achieve a 41.5% level
- g) earmarked funds will be reduced from £17.8K to £9.7K to part fund Village Hall grants and to fund the survey work needed to apply for the speed limit reduction to 30mph and LED street lamps.

The balance is all allocated for specific use

h) CIL funds will reduce ( assuming no house building in 2025-26) from £64.5K to £44.7K. This part funded the Village Hall work and will fund if approved the work to reduce the speed limits to 30mph north of the village. in 2025-26. The balance of £44.7K in CIL funds has been allocated to projects set out in our strategic plan.