

Briefing Note

Budget & Precept 2024/25

3 min read

1.0 Background

1.1 At their public meeting on 16 November 2023, councillors agreed to set a budget for the next financial year, but instructed the Clerk to calculate options for setting a precept based on the funding that could be drawn down from the General Reserve.

131E To approve the budget for 2024/2025

Councillors discussed the proposed budget and agreed to include the additional cost of grasscutting and hedge cutting (£625) into the precept calculation, and transfer the costs of Menheniot Green (£1000) from the General Reserve onto the precept. It was **Resolved** to accept the revised budget. Proposed Cllr Berg. Seconded Cllr Luck. All agreed

Action: Clerk to recalculate the budget and precept, and forward final details to councillors.

This Briefing Note sets out the calculations for three options.

1.2 The council's precept is collected to pay for the day to day running costs in the parish and is not usually intended to pay for capital items. It is calculated by deducting expenses from non-tax income and charging the difference to each household in the parish.

2.0 The issues

2.1 Expenditure for 2024/25 is now budgeted to be £31,519, which is an increase of £1,243 (4%) compared to the budget set last year. The reason for the increase in expenses is because of the extra costs forecast for maintaining the council's open spaces (grasscutting and hedge trimming).

2.2 In order to meet the day to day expenses of the parish council, I have taken into account income from Cornwall Council and other income that will derive from fees and charges.

2.3 In calculating a budget for 2024/2025, the Clerk has examined all the costs incurred to date and made provision for changes, as well as including items that we may be liable for in the future.

2.4 At the close of business on 31 October 2023, the council's reserves were £60,527.69.

2.5 The final calculation for a budget that takes account of all these factors will require a precept which is higher than that previously levied. The choices presented are:

Option 1

No subsidy from General Reserve

Precept	28832.00
Band D =	43.72 (current 38.55)
Annual Increase =	£5.16 (43p per month) +13.4%

Option 2

£2000 subsidy from General Reserve

Precept	26832.00
Band D =	40.68 (current 38.55)
Annual Increase =	£2.13 (18p per month) +5.5%

Option 3

£1000 subsidy from 27832.00

Precept 42.20 (current 38.55)

Band D = £3.65 (30p per month) +9.5%

Annual Increase =

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 To top up the Community Grants budget from the general reserve to a figure of £2,500, the final amounts to be agreed at the April 2024 public meeting.

3.2 To choose an option for setting the precept detailed in 2.5 above.

The Finance & General Purposes Working Group recommend adopting Option 2

4.0 How the council uses your money

The parish council owns and maintains three open spaces which are freely available to residents and visitors: the playing field (Menheniot village) , the recreation area at Merrymeet and the community garden on Trelawney Road (maintained by local residents). In addition to its financial support for volunteering groups in the parish, the council owns and maintains the public toilets in Menheniot village, the bus shelters in Menheniot, Merrymeet and on the A38 by The Hayloft as well as carrying out other grass cutting and footpath maintenance.

Details of any proposals will be discussed and where appropriate, agreed at the public meeting. Visit www.menheniotparish.org.uk to download a calendar of meetings.

Author : John Hesketh, Parish Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer

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