

Christow Parish Council - Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on 17th November 2025

Present: Cllrs Archer, Slack and Clerk Mrs C Retallick

Elect a Chair for this committee: Cllr Slack proposed Cllr Archer as Chair , Cllr Archer accepted this role

Apologies: none received

Declaration of interest: None declared

Review the of Terms of Reference - These were accpeted

Risk Assessment: A few amendments were made to make this document upto date.

Asset Register: Changes made to the register which included the removal of the play equipment that has been condemned. Added the new picnic bench at the skate park, reviewed the purchase costs of the memorial bench . New total is £99,156.00

To set the precept for 2026-2027:

| | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE | Budget Agreed | Budget Agreed | Budget Proposed | Notes |
| Employee costs | 8,433 | 9,107 | 9,641 | There has been a slight over payment of salary due to the NALC agreed salary settlement therefore on 31.3.26 clerk will repay over payment of £65.52 . Clerk will move to SCP 27 on 1.4.26 which is £19.81 p/h. The predicted budget is set for £9640.80 to cover NALC increases and other unexpected expenses. |
| PAYE Accountants | 200 | 210 | 216 | |
| Holiday/Locum and Sickness cover | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| NI Employers Contribution | | 616 | 616 | |
| Office Expenses | 652 | 662 | 512 | |
| Bnak Charges | | | 60 | |
| Insurance | 800 | 747.45 | 750 | |
| Subscriptions | 366 | 535 | 551 | |
| Audit Fees | 400 | 420 | 432 | |
| Bowden Room Rent | 260 | 300 | 325 | |
| Grass Cutting contract | | | 4065 | This year we have used the Total costs as given by the contractor |
| Hedge cutting Contract | | | 1155 | This year we have used the Total costs as given by the contractor |
| Recreation Field Maintenance | 4,700 | 5,770 | 1,500 | Grass/hedge cutting has been included in the above contractors total cost . |
| Grounds Maintence (Emptying bins) | | | 1,840 | |
| Toilets Block contingency fund | 7,394 | 6,210 | 2,000 | |
| Cemetery Maintenance | 1,727.5 | 3,720.0 | 1,965 | Grass/hedge cutting has been included in the above contractors total cost . |
| Allotments Maintenance | 347.5 | 1525 | 200 | |
| Car Park Maintenance | 0 | 1750 | 1750 | |
| Caversham Close grass cut | 160 | 180 | 0 | Grass/hedge cutting has been included in the above contractors total cost . |
| Play & Skatepark rental/equipment/expenses | 1,766 | 1,716 | 291 | Grass/hedge cutting has been included in the above contractors total cost . |
| Chairman's Allowance | 0 | 0 | 50 | |
| Grants | 300 | 300 | 300 | |
| Computer/Software/Website charges | 570 | 647.5 | 545 | |

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Clerk/councillor training/mileage/conference | 355 | 310 | 250 | |
| Cost of Election | 200 | 200 | 200 | |
| Misc/Contingencies (see misc on accs) | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| Lengthsman/Road Warden | 4500 | 4500 | 4500 | |
| TOTAL | 35,131.00 | 41,426.23 | 35,713.80 | |

| POTENTIAL INCOME | 24-25 | 25-26 | 26-27 | Notes |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Cemetery | ? | ? | ? | |
| Allotments | 425 | 450 | 540 | 18 plots @£30 |
| Recreation Field | ? | ? | ? | |
| TTT | 420 | 420 | 420 | |
| Toilets | 0 | | 20 | |
| Bank Interest | ? | ? | ? | |
| Grants/Donations | ? | ? | ? | |
| Precept | 27,500.00 | 33,000 | 35,800 | 5% increase would not cover the predicted cost for the next financial year. An increase of £1650 |
| VAT reclaimed | | | | 8.5% Increase would achieve enough income for the parish = £35800. £2805 up from last year |
| TOTAL | 28,345.00 | 33,870.00 | 36,780.00 | A 9% increase would give a some money for new project = £35,970. £2970 up from last year |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| DEFICIT FOR YEAR | -6,786.00 | -7,556.23 | |
| SURPLUS FOR YEAR | | | 980.00 |

Capital Outlay (ring fenced)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Repairs to toilet Block | 2750 | 2750 | 2750 |
| Repairs to tarmac surface in car pk | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Cemetery extension proposals | 5,250 | 5,250 | 5,250 |
| | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |

Recommendations for 2026-27

This year the committee have reviewed previous years budget and actualy spend. They have made realistic predictions for future spend and committment to new projects essential for the community . The newly introduced Employers NI contributins are an extra expense and this has been included as a standard cost going forward.

The committee have made a minor change in the presentation of the budget by adding the Contractors cost for all of the grass and hedge cutting rather than splitting into different areas.

The project this council should be prioitising for the up coming year is essential maintenance to the Car Park surface and the cemetery extension. The committee have given examples of different percentage increases for the Full council to give consideration when setting the Precept request for 2026-2027, but their recommendation is for 8.5% increase and the request to TDC should be £35,800.

Signed _____ Date _____