

The Finance Committee met as a working party on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November and agreed a draft budget to be submitted to the Parish Council in December. A full breakdown of the Budget, Forecasts, CIL and Reserves is included as a separate schedule.

**Budget commentary:**

The following information was noted in the review of the draft Budget for 2025/26 and forecast figures for 2026/27 and 2027/28:

**INCOME**

Area	Notes
Precept	Provisional tax base received, final version due early January 2025
Grants	Assumed 2025/26 will increase in line with increase in minimum wage
Health Centre	2024/25 forecast includes back rent from November 2023 – assuming rent is agreed by District Valuer ahead of year end. Rent review due 2026/27, should include 1 <sup>st</sup> floor.
Cemetery	Figure varies year on year. Average figure used for budgeting purposes.
Interest	Dependent on CIL funds held and prevailing interest rates.
CIL123	Dependent on successful bids: future possible bids for fitness track round new land.
Misc.	Includes shed rent and other small income. Also shown here are Neighbourhood Plan review grants.

**EXPENDITURE**

Area	Notes
Staffing Costs	<u>Includes:</u> All gross wages and salaries. Employers National Insurance – recent changes budgeted Pension Contributions <u>Assumptions:</u> No change to Clerk’s SCP, general increase in salary scales of £0.67p per hour. Increase in minimum wage for 2025/26.
Admin/General	Neighbourhood Plan review costs are included in “other”, “stationery” and “meeting costs”. Payroll costs budgeted to include all staff. Forecast for 2024/25 includes cost of new phone, other years include new phone contract. Other areas such as subscriptions and office 365 costs include 5% increase per annum.
Grants & Donations	Increase in donation to Music Day, from £500 to £1,000
Health Centre	Administration costs are included in staffing costs and admin/general expenses. 2025/26 budget includes a fee for 5 year hardwiring check in assessments.
Street Cleaning	<u>Includes:</u> £600 for extra dog litter bin on New Street 25% uplift for cost of bin emptying – similar increase was implemented 2024/25
Grass Cutting	2025/26 represents last year of current 3 year agreement. Forecasts for 2026/27 & 2027/28 include an assumed 6% increase for all areas.
Cemetery / Church	£3.5k per annum is included for tree/chapel works. Grass cutting increase included in forecast for 2026/27 & 2027/28.

## Precept recommendation:

The working party recommends the budget for 2025/26 to the full Council with an **increase** to the precept **of 2.5%**. Based on the provisional tax base received this will give a **precept figure of £46,491**.

The 2.5% increase has been carried forward in the forecasts for 2026/27 & 2027/28.

This represents the following increase year on year by property type:

Year	Precept	Tax Base	Actual				
2024/25	£45,200	633.47					
Annual Band A	Annual Band B	Annual Band C	Annual Band D	Annual Band E	Annual Band F	Annual Band G	Annual Band H
£47.57	£55.50	£63.42	£71.35	£87.21	£103.07	£118.92	£142.71

Year	Precept	Tax Base	Proposed				
2025/26	£46,491	635.67					
Annual Band A	Annual Band B	Annual Band C	Annual Band D	Annual Band E	Annual Band F	Annual Band G	Annual Band H
£48.76	£56.88	£65.01	£73.14	£89.39	£105.64	£121.90	£146.27

### Annual Increase on 2024-25

Annual Band A	Annual Band B	Annual Band C	Annual Band D	Annual Band E	Annual Band F	Annual Band G	Annual Band H
£1.19	£1.39	£1.59	£1.78	£2.18	£2.58	£2.97	£3.57

## For information:

### Precept Comparison – 2024/25 financial year

The Tax Base is produced from the Council Tax system at Mid Suffolk District Council which gives a listing of all the properties in each town or parish in the District. The figure is then adjusted to take into account any discounts that are given, for example, single occupancy, second homes or homes that are empty or exempt.

Across Mid Suffolk, Stradbroke is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest Parish by Tax Base, but has only the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest charge per Band D property.

## Parish Comparisons: Band D charge (top 40)

Parish Name	Precept	Tax Base	Band D
Stowmarket	1,380,559	7,019.6	196.67
Eye	146,850	845.0	173.79
Botesdale	60,900	353.2	172.42
Coddenham	34,217	281.6	121.51
Elmswell	229,749	1,919.5	119.69
Debenham	88,770	872.8	101.71
Thurston	177,360	1,767.0	100.37
Laxfield	46,357	470.7	98.49
Mendlesham	53,601	569.9	94.05
Redgrave	25,252	277.1	91.13
Needham Market	161,909	1,820.5	88.94
Barking	15,200	180.9	84.02
Norton	39,000	467.3	83.46
Fressingfield	36,845	442.3	83.30
Haughley	58,554	709.2	82.56
Bramford	85,617	1,041.7	82.19
Stoke Ash	6,774	83.0	81.61
Thwaite	5,262	64.5	81.58
Mickfield	7,000	91.6	76.42
Badwell Ash	29,630	390.1	75.95
Beyton	23,357	314.9	74.17
Framsden	10,322	143.3	72.03
<b>Stradbroke</b>	<b>45,200</b>	<b>633.5</b>	<b>71.35</b>
Little Blakenham	7,660	109.3	70.08
Old Newton with Dagworth	29,667	433.8	68.39
Gipping	1,845	27.0	68.33
Rickinghall Superior	22,794	336.1	67.82
Rickinghall Inferior	11,506	169.7	67.80
Woolpit	65,000	969.2	67.07
Thorndon	22,500	340.9	66.00
Bacton	40,255	610.5	65.94
Denham	5,450	83.7	65.11
Somersham	18,442	283.3	65.10
Wattisfield	12,384	196.5	63.02
Great Blakenham	52,500	859.4	61.09
Creeting St. Peter or West Creeting	6,092	99.8	61.04
Hessett	12,568	210.5	59.71
Stowupland	55,925	992.5	56.35
Barham	31,249	556.2	56.18
Brundish	4,536	82.5	54.98