

THE CHARLTONS PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES ON PRECEPT 2026/2027

1. Clerk's Salary

Pay scales are based on the local government pay scales negotiated by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services.

An increase in the Clerk's weekly hours from six to eight was approved at the Parish Council meeting in February. This increase reflects the increased workload being experienced by Clerks nationally due to devolution of services and assets from County Councils and increased rules and regulations under which all councils must operate.

2. Clerk's Expenses

The mileage rate has been budgeted at 45p per mile in line with SLCC and NALC Car Allowance for Local Council Clerks. The Clerk is paid the HMRC agreed figure of £26 per month to provide a home office for the Parish Council.

3. Precept Demand

The 2025-26 precept demand was £32,000. This is the amount that residents pay to enable the Parish Council to operate. At the end of the 2025-26 financial year the Parish Council will be holding around £62,000 in their bank account.

£7,198 of this amount is Community Infrastructure Levy funding, which the council is holding on behalf of the parish, so the actual amount of council liquid assets is around £54,800.

This shows that the council is holding reserves equivalent to around 170% of the precept. Councils should hold between 50% and 100% of their precepts in reserve, so this amount is far too high.

When the Parish Councillors set the 2026-27 budget, the Clerk advised them that they could, and probably should, decrease the precept amount. However, the Councillors voted that it should remain at the previous year's level of £32,000.

This table shows the council's projected income and expenditure for 2026-27, compared with 2025-26.

Income	2025/26	2026/27
Precept	£32,000	£32,000
Bank Interest	£500	£1,800
Western Power - Wayleaves	£280	£280
Welham Field Rent	£750	£550
Xmas Tree Fund	£0	£0
Misc Income	£0	£0
Total of Forecast Income	£33,530	£34,630

Note – The Welham Field rent is £550 per year, not £750 as stated in 2025/26. The council is now investing its

reserves with CCLA, which is an investment company used by many Town and Parish Councils and pays a far higher rate of interest than high street banks.

Expenditure

Staff Costs	2025/26	2026/27
Clerks Salary and PAYE/NI	£7,867	£12,800
Totals	£7,867	£12,800

Note: The increase is to reflect the national pay award to all clerks of 3%, the increase in employer national insurance contributions and the increase in the Parish Clerk's hours from six to eight per week.

General Administration	2025/26	2026/27
Clerk's mileage	£100	£250
Postage / stationery	£100	£10
Work from home allowance	£140	£312
Bank charges	£0	£10
Website / laptop	£250	£400
Church clock service	£250	£250
Insurance	£500	£650
Audit fees	£425	£450
Membership fees	£583	£580
Room hire	£200	£200
Training / Elections	£300	£300
C Denning Wayleaves	£200	£200
Scribe	£0	£300
Welham Field expenses and legal fees	£4,330	£0
Misc.	£1,500	£1,500
Totals	£8,878	£5,412

Note: Scribe is the council's new accounting system

Parish Expenses	2025/26	2026/27
Grass, Hedge & Ground Maintenance	£750	£750
Speed calming / SID	£2,572*	£0
War Memorial / Fingerposts	£2,500*	£0
Flood mitigation	£3,150*	£0
Pond dredging	£1,030	£0
Village car park	£2,147	£2,200
Xmas Trees	£936	£936
Defibrillator	£500	£400
Footpath repairs and renovations	£500	£500
Totals	£14,085	£4,786

Note: The figures marked with an asterix were not spent and will be carried forward to 2026-27.

Grants	2025/26	2026/27
Memorial Community Trust	£3,000	£3,000

Youth Club	£1,575	£7,000
CPAD and Xmas lights	£300	£300
Somerton Library	£300	£300
Community news	£315	£300
Citizens Advice	£200	£200
Royal British Legion	£800	£800
Other Grants	£250	£250
Totals	£6,740	£12,150

Note: The increase in grant to the Youth Club is to part finance the youth club leader.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£37,570	£35,148
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Total Income	£33,530	£34,630
Total Expenditure	£37,570	£35,148
Anticipated Deficit	-£4,040	-£518

Anticipated bank balance at 31.3.26 including CIL funding held of £7,198	£62,000
Anticipated bank balance at 31.3.26 less CIL funding held	£54,800

4. Parish Councillors

The Parish Council has an establishment of nine Parish Councillors. At the time of writing this report there are only five councillors. The Parish Council desperately needs qualified people to step forward to become councillors. The qualifications to become a councillor are:

- To live within the parish, or within three miles of its boundary.
- To own land and/or property in the parish.
- To have your main place of employment in the parish.

5. I am very happy to answer any questions that parishioners may have regarding this report.

Please feel free to call me on 07859911204 or email me at clerk@thecharltonsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tony Jay

Tony Jay
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

22nd March 2026