

Budget Setting at Ringland Parish Council

January was a particularly busy month for the Parish Council, marking the conclusion of budget setting for the 2026/2027 financial year. As with many local councils, we face significant challenges in the year ahead.

Residents will have seen their council tax demand for 2026-27, which includes the cost of running the parish. This year that cost has risen by 5.43%, or £5.43 over the year for the average Band D property in Ringland. The council precept for 2026-27 will now cost the average Ringland resident £2 a week this coming year.

Where Does the Precept Go?

The full Parish Council budget is published on the council website at:
www.ringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/finances

The Parish Council is responsible for managing and maintaining the Village Hall, River Green, Village Green, Ringland Hills and the Commons. It is also required by law to employ a proper officer, which is the Clerk, have insurance in place, and maintain a reserve fund that equates to between 3 and 12 months expenditure.

The Village Hall required electrical work to be completed following the Electrical Installation Condition Report conducted this winter. The gas cooker needs replacing with an electric one due to problems of positioning gas canisters. Electrical improvements in the kitchen are needed for this to happen, and a grant is being sought to help with the costs. The Village Hall now has broadband! This project was completed in 2025 and of course adds to the running costs of the hall, which also include electricity, water and waste disposal.

The commons continue to require maintenance and improvement works. Some of this has been funded through grants and volunteer organisations, but the fencing will need replacing over time and a budget has been set by the Parish Council this coming year to complete 100m of fencing.

The grass cutting contract for the village has historically accounted for about half of the precept. This is being reduced in the coming year to allow the Parish Council to spend money on other areas of responsibility. Residents may notice grass being cut less frequently especially in dry weather. It is always difficult to predict the amount of grass cutting that will be needed as the weather can be so changeable. Please let the Clerk know of any concerns during the year.

This year there have been changes to local council governance, particularly around digital and data compliance. In response, the Parish Council has updated many policies, procedures and its website to incorporate greater accessibility, and also enhancements like the new Village Hall booking calendar and the soon-to-be launched online canoe permit facility.

The Council receives some grants for maintaining the commons and some income from hiring the Village Hall and glass recycling, which help to reduce the overall precept needed, but do not cover all the costs involved.

The reserves the Council will hold at the end of the financial year 2027 will be 47% of the total forecast expenditure - the minimum the Council feels is prudent.

Decisions to increase council tax are never taken lightly. Your Parish councillors — all of whom are volunteers — worked hard to strike a balance between maintaining essential services, investing responsibly in the Parish's assets, and ensuring best value for Ringland.

If you have any questions about the budget, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk.

clerk@ringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk