

BUDGET SUPPORTING STATEMENT 2025/26

The Bromeswell Parish Council budget for 2025/26 considers the anticipated expense of planned activity and reserves.

Planned Activities

The majority of planned activity for 2025/26 involves standard financial commitments required for the running of Bromeswell Parish Council. An explanation of three items is covered in this section which are all in keeping with the Bromeswell Parish Plans of 2021-2025 and 2026-2030:

- **Donations:** Bromeswell PC's budget allows for donations to be made to charitable organisations that have a direct impact on Bromeswell's residents. In recent years this has included donations to the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Disability Advice Service and the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Donations to other charitable organisations will be considered on request.
The primary donation in recent years has been to the Parish Church Council. Due to a change in Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, the PC is now able to support the PCC through contributions towards the fabric of the church building as well as the maintenance of Bromeswell's churchyard. This change of stance was discussed by the PC and agreed at a public meeting.
- **Website Hosting:** The PC's costs for hosting its website were increased significantly in 2024/25 due to the adoption of .GOV email addresses for its councillors. The costs of the email domain are now included in the annual budget.
- **Support to Bromeswell events and facilities:** A public consultation was held in the Spring of 2025 to identify the requirements of the Bromeswell PC. The results of that consultation have been summarised in the Bromeswell Parish Plan 2026-2030 and include a request for the PC to support village events and facilities. Whilst no budgeted expense has been included for this activity in 2025/26, the PC has agreed to use finance from the General Contingency Reserve for agreed projects such as the repair of the bus shelter roof.

Reserves

Bromeswell PC recognises that not all expenses can be planned for. To cater for unforeseen costs, the PC maintains the following reserves:

- **Village Hall Maintenance:** The village Hall is recognised by the PC as a key asset for the village and surrounding community. The PC owns the hall but let it on a long-term lease to the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) which is responsible for the hall's upkeep. The VHMC has a programme of works designed to update the hall. Much of the work planned by the VHMC relies upon grants and a key indicator for successful grant applications is often the community input. Funds put aside by the PC can be useful in obtaining these grants. Reserve levels for Village Hall Maintenance was £NIL at the end of 2024/25. This has been raised to £500 in 2025/26.
- **Highways Maintenance:** Maintaining road signage, drains and footpaths is a primary objective in Bromeswell's Parish Plans for 2020-25 and 2026-30. Bromeswell PC feels that the considerable expense incurred for highways maintenance should be met by spreading costs across annual budgets through the use of a reserve. Reserve levels for Highways Maintenance was £1,500 at the end of 2024/25 which was considered sufficient going forward.
- **Contested Election:** The PC recently came close to needing to hold an election for a councillor vacancy outside the usual cycle of elections. The costs for holding such an election are high and have to be paid by the PC. Having a reserve available to meet such costs is considered a sensible precaution. Reserve levels for Contested Election was £1,250 at the end of 2024/25 which was considered sufficient going forward.
- **Technology Replacement:** The cost of replacing the VAS will be approx. £3,000. Replacing the PC's laptop will be approx. £350. The PC feels it is prudent to maintain a reserve to meet maintenance and replacement costs as they arise. Reserve levels for Technology Replacement was £1,250 at the end of 2024/25 which was considered sufficient going forward.
- **Legal Advice:** This reserve will help Bromeswell PC seek legal advice on planning and other matters, something that has been required in previous years. The last bill was part funded by the PC and part by local residents and came to £12,000. Reserve levels for Legal Advice was £1,250 at the end of 2024/25 which was considered sufficient going forward.

- **General Contingency:** Bromeswell PC maintains a general contingency reserve in order to supplement the above reserves and meet other expenses that arise. This reserve has been used in the past to cover unforeseen expenses such as a new village hall lease, village hall fencing, notice board replacement etc. The PC has been fortunate to receive financial support from District & County Councillors or residents, but this cannot be guaranteed. Reserve levels for General Contingency was £1,400 at the end of 2024/25. This has been raised to £2,000 in 2025/26.

2025/26 Budget and Precept Calculation		2025/26	Previous Expenditure & Precepts		
			2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
PL AN NE D AC TIV ITY	Clerks Salary, Pension and PAYE	£2,670.72	£2,496.00	£2,544.00	£2,349.60
	SALC Payroll	£50.00	£45.60	£45.60	
	Clerk office expenses	£90.00	£43.49	£109.99	£154.55
	Clerk and Councillor training	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	PC insurance premium	£400.00	£367.59	£322.74	£210.67
	Audit fee	£225.00	£212.40	£202.80	£193.20
	Information Commissioner's Office fee	£50.00	£35.00	£35.00	£35.00
	Donations	£800.00	£750.00	£750.00	£620.00
	Website hosting	£328.00	£270.00	£60.00	£60.00
	SALC membership	£215.00	£189.83	£183.33	£189.61
	Village Hall room hire	£110.00	£107.00	£76.00	£115.75
	Emergency Plan / Parish Plan	£100.00	£88.00	£50.00	NIL
	Support to Bromeswell events	NIL	£195.70	£16.22	£500.00

RES ER VE S	Village Hall maintenance reserve (£500.00)	£500.00
	Highways maintenance (£1,500.00)	NIL
	Contested election reserve (£1,250.00)	NIL
	Technology replacement reserve (£1,250.00)	NIL
	Legal advice reserve (£1,250.00)	NIL
	General contingency reserve (£2,000.00)	£600.00

Anticipated Income for 2025/26 £36.23

Total Budget for 2025/26 £6,102.49

Anticipated Carried Forward from 2024/25 as at November 2024 £(839.22)

Precept	£5,300.00	£5,400.00	£5,130.00	£5,820.00
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