

## Clerk's report

Drinkstone Parish Council 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Precept

The precept form for 2024/5 needs to be submitted in early January 2024.

I attach a proposed budget – the outcome of a finance working party in November 2023 – which shows a budget request of £10,000. This represents a 0.42% reduction on the 2023/4 precept.

The budget requires approval and the precept signed off by myself and the Chair.

### Reserves

The finance party reviewed the allocation of the reserves held by Drinkstone Parish Council.

The suggestions for a re-evaluation of the reserves can be seen below:

Reserves	1st April 2023	Movement to 30/11/2023	1st December 2023	Adjustments to reflect future use	Balance
	£				
General reserve	12,546.56	6,071.60	18,618.16	461.01	19,079.17
Playing field	500.00	0.00	500.00		500.00
Election	385.00	(137.51)	247.49	2.51	250.00
Defibrillator	174.83	0.00	174.83	(174.83)	0.00
Tree maintenance	1,275.00	0.00	1,275.00		1,275.00
Phone box	100.00	0.00	100.00		100.00
Civic event	117.73	(147.11)	(29.38)	300.00	270.62
Parish lands & footpaths	200.00	0.00	200.00		200.00
Training & development	700.40	0.00	700.40	(200.40)	500.00
Daffodil project	638.29	0.00	638.29	(388.29)	250.00
	16,637.81		22,424.79		22,424.79

I attach a reserves policy which was last updated in April 2021 for review and approval.

### Cash balance

The current cash balance is £33,719, of which the CIL is circa £11,000. This leaves a surplus of £22,000 and a projected underspend of the 2023/4 precept of £5,000.

The finance working party identified a number of appropriate application of funds to use this surplus. These activities are separate from the use of the CIL monies.

Suggested projects were:

- Four poo bins £2,000 ex VAT
- New parish laptop £600 ex VAT
- Repair of the play equipment on the cricket £2,000 ex VAT

### **CIL monies**

The report on the possible uses of the CIL funds is a separate paper.

Michael Walton  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2023