



PILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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MEETING	Pilsley Parish Council
DATE	6 January 2025
ITEM No.	Item 11(c)
REPORT BY	Parish Clerk
TITLE	PRECEPT OPTIONS: 2025-26

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council tax base in 2024/25 was 1090, an increase of 68 from previous year's tax base of 1029.
- 1.2 The precept in 2024/25 was set at £119,310.51 which was a 6% increase on the previous year. The cost to households in 2024/25 was £110.44 equated to an actual increase of 5p per annum band D householders rather than the forecast 7p in the report to January 2024 Council.

2 ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The Council's budget for 2025/26, including revenue funded projects, (minute reference FC/1224/11) is agreed at:

Table 1

Revenue Account	
Cost Centre	2025/26 Budget
Income	£130,284
Current account balance 1/4/25	£766.38
Expenditure	£153,078
Shortfall	-£22,028

- 2.2 The Council Tax base for 2025/26 is 1132.99, an increase of 42.99 on last year
- 2.3 Council reserves have depleted over the past few years as the Parish council has increased its services to residents. Table 2 shows reserves for past 5 years

Table 2: Historical Reserves

Year Ending	Reserves
31/3/2024	£31,526
31/3/2023	£117,395
31/3/2022	£116,732
31/3/2021	£124,381
31/3/2020	£85,000

- 2.4 Given the Council's contract and staffing responsibilities I recommend the minimum reserves

should be ring-fenced at 50% of annual expenditure - £76,000. Table 3 shows forecast reserves for 2025/26 once a) the Morton Road resurfacing project has been delivered (a reserve funded project of £18,000) and b) the ring-fenced reserve set aside.

Table 3:

Reserves Account	
Cost Centre	2025/26 Budget
Balance at 1/4/25	£108,002
Less reserve funded project of £18,000	£90,002
Forecast interest of £480	£90,482
Less expected reserves of £76,000	+14,482

2.5 In considering the precept for 2025/26 the Council should take into account the need to increase reserves whilst continuing to deliver services to the community.

3. OPTIONS

- 1) Increase precept by total revenue shortfall of £22,028.
- 2) Increase precept by revenue shortfall offset by using remaining reserves (excluding £76,000 ring-fenced reserves - £7,546
- 3) Increase precept by 2.3% to cover current inflation rate - £2,744.
- 4) The impact of each of these options on households is detailed in table 4. Please note that the time of writing this report council tax base for 2025/26 has not been received. If that base exceeds 1090 the costs for households will decrease.

Table 4: Impact

Year	2025/26		
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Precept	141,339	£126,857	£122,055
Cost per Household*	£124.75	£111.97	£107.73
Annual increase on previous year**	£15.34	£2.56	-1.98
Monthly increase on previous Year (across 10 payments)	£1.54	£0.26	n/a

4. RECOMMENDATION

Option 1 – precept of £141,339, equating to an annual increase of £15.34, to deliver the services requested in the 2024 consultation whilst improving the village environment.