

Walton on the Wolds Parish Council Precept 2025-26

We understand that some parishioners may be concerned about the increase in the parish council element of next year's council tax bill from Charnwood Borough Council. While the percentage rise appears very high, and may seem alarming at first glance, it is a high percentage increase on a very small amount. It brings our precept into line with other similarly sized parish councils.

For 2025-26, Walton on the Wolds Parish Council set a budget of £14,878 and submitted a precept request of £14,000 to Charnwood Borough Council. The budget was formulated on the basis of rigorous and transparent financial planning. The budget and precept request were considered in detail at our meeting in December 2024. This meeting was open to the public, as are all parish council meetings. The agenda was published on our website, our Facebook page, and on the two Council noticeboards, well in advance of the meeting, as required by the 1972 Local Government Act. Draft minutes of the meeting, clearly showing the decisions made, were published on our website soon after the meeting, and the approved minutes were published immediately after the January meeting.

We looked in detail at our expenditure for 2024-25 - actual expenditure to date and projected expenditure to 31st March 2025 - and made reasonable calculations of our likely expenditure for the coming year, broken down into each category of spending. All parish councils are required to produce a precept request on the basis of an adequate budgetary process and to confirm this on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.¹

Other than a small and irregular income from burial ground fees, the precept is our only source of income. This money is used to pay for:

- the Clerk's salary
- some streetlighting
- supplementary mowing of grass verges
- burial ground maintenance
- training to ensure that the Clerk and councillors have up to date knowledge of all their statutory and financial obligations and of best practice
- grants to village groups and organisations
- village events and Christmas lights
- insurance
- website and email hosting services
- administration and office costs
- maintenance of existing assets and renewal of obsolete ones

Due to various oversights in the past, well-documented in last year's internal and external audit reports, our audit fees for last year and this are much higher than those that would be expected for a small council. We were unable to declare ourselves

¹ [AnnualReturnForm3 2024-25 e.pdf](#)

exempt from external audit. Full details are available on the Audit, Annual Return and Governance page of our website. The Council has made many improvements in the last year and hopes to be able to declare itself exempt from external audit from next year onwards.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact the council via clerk@waltononthewoldspc.gov.uk.

Walton on the Wolds Parish Council is always on the lookout for new councillors, and we anticipate having two vacancies in May 2025. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us and have a say on the decisions that affect Walton on the Wolds.

Emma Andrews

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Walton on the Wolds Parish Council

March 2025