

Upper Clatford Parish Council – Proposed Budget 2024 – 2025

Parish Council Meeting 6 Feb 2024

Costs	Budget 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Office Expenses	£1,246.00	£750.00
Clerk Salary	£7,644.00	£7,766.00
Training	£350.00	£350.00
Councillor Expense/Chairman's Fund	£350.00	£360.00
Legal Fees	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
PC Insurance	£1,326.00	£1,540.00
Audit Charges	£650.00	£750.00
Section 137	£150.00	£200.00
Grounds Maintenance	£9,600.00	£9,686.00
Footpaths	£100.00	£100.00
Tree Maintenance	£5,000.00	£10,000.00
Dog Bins	£1,727.00	£1,704.00
Street Lighting	£4,000.00	£4,280.00
Pavilion (running costs)	£1,500.00	£1,000.00
Sports Field - UCYFC Ground Maintenance costs		£3,755.00
BBPF and AVPF	£500.00	£500.00
Subscriptions	£765.00	£800.00
Events	£500.00	£500.00
SID/defib	£0.00	£400.00
Projects (50% to be grant matched)	£1,250.00	£0.00
Facilities rent (Village Hall)		£330.00
Website/emails	£40.00	£250.00
<i>Chalk Pit Costs</i>		£19,173
Contingency		£500
Reserves buildup 2023/4	£10,000.00	£0
TOTAL	£48,698.00	£66,694.15
Income	Budget 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Precept (See Below)	£31,469.00	£39,748.50
Bank Interest	£15.00	£600.00
Ant Structures Rent (Contract Rate)	£15,000.00	0
<i>Chalk Pit Grants</i>		£9,455
Grants (Projects)	£1,750.00	£0.00
VAT Repayment	£3,500.00	£3,000.00
UCYFC Repayment of field Maintenance costs	£0.00	£3,755.00
Transfer from Reserve	£0.00	£5,000
Tranter from Earmarks	£0.00	£4,951
Village Hall (Grass)	£220.00	£226.00
(Judy Weston Grant 2023)	£50.00	£0.00
Total income	£52,004.00	£66,735.50
EARMARKS / RESERVES	Budget 23/24	Proposed 24/5
1. Playground Maintenance (incl wetpour)	£12,000.00	£12,000.00
2. Pavilion	£4,361.00	£1,410.00
4. Community Projects	£2,000.00	£0.00
Reserves	£10,000.00	£5,000.00
Retained Reserves / Earmark	£28,361	£18,410

The Precept will increase from £47.90 to £60.50 (a 26% increase) due mainly to the loss of income and Chalk Pit Costs which now fall to the Parish Council.

Precept Calculation			
Dwellings	657	657	no change
Precept for household	£47.90	£60.50	126%
Precept income	£31,469.00	£39,748.50	Total Precept required

Attached below is information to support the costs and income lines relating to the Chalk Pit. Over the years, rental income from the Chalk Pit has allowed the Parish Council to maintain a very low Precept. In the last review the ratable value of the property increased. The tenant faced with very significant increase in Business Rates, decided not to renew the lease.

The property is now vacant, and the Parish Council will use the next 6 months to assess what the best long term use of this asset is for the benefit of the Community and implement the plan. Until the plan has been finalised, where possible, costs will be avoided or mitigated.

The budget for the investigative phase is set out below.

Cost Item	Description/Purpose	Budget £	Sub Total
Business Rates	Based on 2x6 weeks period. Assumes Rates will be paid to 2025/26	£2,995	
Change of Use	Conversion to Multi-use Multi-unit facility - Pre-App (£300) plus Applica	£300	
Utility Service / Connection Charges	Electricity and water - both turned off	£500	
Building Insurance	Adding into Parish Insurance cover	£2,321	
Site Clearance	Based on quote - includes removal of oil tank (excl VAT)	£6,357	
Asbestos	Site investigation	£200	
Essential building repairs	To stop further damage – roof	£500	
Fencing/Gate/Locks/signage	To make site secure	£1,000	
Legal services	Additional legal advice to prepare plan	£1,000	
Property Management Services	Professional advice on option analysis and cost	£3,000	
Electrical inspection and necessary repairs	To make the property safe	£0	
Architect / design	Preparation of Concept/Outline design	£500	
Communications and publicity	Community assessment and engagement process	£500	
Contingency	Covered in reserves		
TOTAL Costs			£19,173
Income/Grants	Description/Purpose	Budget £	Sub Total
Site clearance	ANT agreed funding (Earmark -Chalk Pit Redevelopment)	£4,000	
Dilapidations	Stratford's success fee netted off.		
Rent income 2024	Assumption is the site will be vacant	£0	
Grants	£455 transfer from Chalk Streams (Earmark -Chalk Pit Redevelopment)	£455	
	Cowdown Renewables (Earmark -Chalk Pit Redevelopment)	£5,000	
Total Income			£9,455
Overall budget impact			-£9,718

In terms of the longer term future, a Task Force to undertake this work is being assembled, involving the Parish Council and Parishioners with professional experience in the areas needed to complete this assessment.

The 24/5 Precept represents 84% of forecast Operating Costs (this excludes Chalk Pit costs)

Operating Reserves	1 year costs	£47,521.00	Excluding exceptional items relating to the Chalk Pit
Precept income 2024/5		£39,748.50	
Percentage cover		84%	

It is anticipated that this is a temporary hike in Precept and in future years, the Chalk Pit will become a revenue earner again or if the site is sold, the income will increase reserves significantly.