

**Revised Draft Budget 2026/27** - Allendale Parish Council proposes a revised draft budget for the financial year 2026/27. Residents can comment by email to [allendaleparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:allendaleparishcouncil@outlook.com), or at the parish council meeting on date at place.

The parish council is proposing a parish precept of £50,000 for 2026-2027, an increase of £4,000 (8.7%) on last year. This is approximately £58 for a Band D property. The precept is charged to residential properties in the parish and collected with council tax. This precept will allow the parish council to complete some works during the year, while still keeping an operational reserve in hand.

The budget and the parish precept will be finalised at the date meeting of the parish council, and the precept figure will be passed to Northumberland County Council at the end of January.

| Item                                 | Budget<br>2025-26 | Actual to<br>Nov 30 25 | Forecast<br>Dec-Mar 26 | Total<br>2025/26 | Budget<br>2026-27 |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Administration</b>                |                   |                        |                        |                  |                   |                                    |
| Audit                                | 350.00            |                        | 315.00                 | 315.00           | 650.00            | increase for new internal auditor  |
| Hall hire                            | 400.00            | 340.00                 | 200.00                 | 540.00           | 400.00            |                                    |
| Insurance                            | 2300.00           | 2,029.60               | 27.00                  | 2,056.60         | 2300.00           |                                    |
| Other admin                          |                   | 69.26                  |                        | 69.26            |                   |                                    |
| Subscription fees                    | 440.00            | 467.28                 |                        | 467.28           | 470.00            | association subscription           |
| Training                             | 700.00            | 100.00                 | 120.00                 | 220.00           | 700.00            | for new councillors and new clerk. |
| Website subscription                 | 75.00             | 75.00                  | 10.00                  | 85.00            | 10.00             |                                    |
| Website and email conversion         | 500.00            |                        | 500.00                 | 500.00           |                   | move to .gov.uk                    |
| Accounting system & IT subscriptions | 345.00            | 345.60                 |                        | 345.60           | 444.00            |                                    |
| Election expenses                    | 2000.00           | 2,843.58               | -686.30                | 2,157.28         |                   |                                    |
| Bank Charges                         | 51.00             | 26.42                  | 17.00                  | 43.42            | 51.00             |                                    |
| <b>Allotments</b>                    |                   |                        |                        |                  |                   |                                    |
| Allotments Maintenance               | 100.00            |                        | 1,350.00               | 1,350.00         | 100.00            |                                    |
| <b>Cemetery</b>                      |                   |                        |                        |                  |                   |                                    |
| General maintenance                  | 600.00            | 402.24                 | 200.00                 | 602.24           | 600.00            | hedge cutting, tree works etc      |
| Cemetery grass cutting               | 3000.00           | 4,908.54               |                        | 4,908.54         | 5250.00           | known uplift in mowing charges     |
| Chapel maintenance                   | 2,260.00          | 1,970.00               |                        | 1,970.00         | 500.00            |                                    |
| Gravedigging Equipment               | 1,000.00          |                        |                        |                  |                   |                                    |
| <b>Donations - S137</b>              | 5,000.00          | 2,020.00               | 2,980.00               | 5,000.00         | 5000.00           |                                    |

**Machinery**

|                         |         |        |          |         |         |                          |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| Machinery maintenance   | 3260.00 | 526.45 | 2,000.00 | 2526.45 | 2200.00 | including annual service |
| Mower finance agreement | 90.00   | 90.00  |          | 90.00   | 90.00   |                          |
| Petrol & oil            | 1500.00 | 636.50 |          | 636.50  | 700.00  |                          |
| New equipment           | 650.00  | 104.94 |          | 104.94  |         |                          |

**Play areas**

|             |        |        |  |        |        |  |
|-------------|--------|--------|--|--------|--------|--|
| Allenfields | 100.00 | 80.00  |  | 80.00  | 100.00 |  |
| Denefields  |        | 530.00 |  | 530.00 | 100.00 | repairs at Denefields to come from reserve |

**Staff Costs**

|                                   |          |          |          |          |          |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Clerk salary, tax, NI and pension | 13300.00 | 9,175.02 | 4,652.40 | 13827.42 | 14269.90 |  |
| Payroll services                  | 300.00   | 200.00   |          | 200.00   | 300.00   |  |

**Street furniture**

|                                 |         |        |        |        |        |              |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Benches                         | 400.00  | 447.00 |        | 447.00 | 750.00 | new benches  |
| Waste bins                      | 1000.00 | 464.90 |        | 464.90 | 500.00 |              |
| Bench restoration & maintenance | 250.00  |        | 250.00 | 250.00 | 500.00 |              |
| Planters                        | 200.00  |        | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | new & repair |

**Villages**

|                               |         |          |          |          |         |   |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---|
| Villages grass cutting        | 5200.00 | 8,508.08 |          | 8508.08  | 7433.33 | county will mow Wentworth Park in 2026        |
| Allenheads Trust              | 500.00  | 500.00   |          | 500.00   | 1000.00 | for ground maintenance                        |
| Recreation Ground             | 3000.00 | 3,100.00 |          | 3100.00  | 3000.00 |   |
| Planter Management Catton     | 50.00   |          | 50.00    | 50.00    | 50.00   |   |
| Plants, trees and shrubs      | 50.00   | 235.37   |          | 235.37   | 200.00  |   |
| Tree inspection and works     | 1100.00 | 1,260.00 | 160.00   | 1420.00  | 1100.00 |   |
| Litter picking                | 1540.80 | 840.00   | 600.00   | 1440.00  | 1540.80 |   |
| Village tidying               | 500.00  | 695.00   |          | 695.00   | 1000.00 |   |
| Isaacs Well changes           | 2000.00 | 2,000.00 | 3,750.00 | 5750.00  |         |   |
| Vehicle activated speed signs | 565.00  | 564.50   |          | 564.50   | 604.01  | new 3 year contract                           |
| Provide Bus Shelters          |         | 2,730.00 | 8,250.00 | 10980.00 | 4900.00 | current year: by library, next year: opposite |

|                                 |                       |                       |                       |                            |                  |                            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Hearse House Maintenance        | 850.00                | 830.00                |                       | 830.00                     | 930.00           |                            |
| Lychgate Maintenance            |                       |                       |                       |                            | 550.00           |                            |
| Phone Box Maintenance           |                       |                       | 112.50                | 112.50                     |                  |                            |
| Green rental charges            | 10.00                 |                       | 10.00                 | 10.00                      | 10.00            |                            |
| Climate & Env. Planting         | 500.00                |                       |                       |                            |                  |                            |
| Parking Survey                  |                       | 36.64                 |                       | 36.64                      |                  |                            |
| <b>Total Payments</b>           | <b>56,036.80</b>      | <b>49,151.92</b>      | <b>24,967.60</b>      | <b>74,119.52</b>           | <b>58,403.04</b> |                            |
| <b>Income Categories</b>        |                       |                       |                       |                            |                  |                            |
| Bank Interest                   | 1200.00               | 1,360.00              | 600.00                | 1960.00                    | 1200.00          |                            |
| Allotments Fees                 | 150.00                |                       | 150.00                | 150.00                     | 150.00           |                            |
| Cemetery Fees                   | 4000.00               | 3,425.00              | 600.00                | 4025.00                    | 4000.00          |                            |
| Grasscutting Costs Recovery     | 1200.00               |                       | 1,200.00              | 1200.00                    |                  |                            |
| Precept                         | 46000.00              | 46,000.00             |                       | 46000.00                   | 50000.00         |                            |
| Sundry                          |                       |                       | 4,500.00              | 4500.00                    | 3500.00          | NECA grant for bus shelter |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>52,550.00</b>      | <b>50,785.00</b>      | <b>7,050.00</b>       | <b>57,835.00</b>           | <b>58,850.00</b> |                            |
| <b>Balance Allocation</b>       | <b>B/f April 2026</b> | <b>Change in year</b> | <b>C/f March 2027</b> |                            |                  |                            |
| <b>Cash Balance</b>             | 54,550.03             |                       | 54,996.99             |                            |                  |                            |
| <b>Earmarked reserves</b>       |                       |                       |                       |                            |                  |                            |
| Elections                       |                       | 600.00                | 600.00                | elections in May 29        |                  |                            |
| Play Equipment reserve          | 4,680.00              |                       | 4,680.00              |                            |                  |                            |
| Headstone survey                | 1,000.00              | 500.00                | 1,500.00              | cost of 2000 every 4 years |                  |                            |
| Mower purchase                  | 5,000.00              | 2,500.00              | 7,500.00              |                            |                  |                            |
| Admin reserve IT equipment      | 600.00                | 200.00                | 800.00                |                            |                  |                            |
| Denefields play area            | 15,343.00             | -100.00               | 15,243.00             | S106 covenanted reserve    |                  |                            |
| <b>Total Earmarked reserves</b> | <b>26,623.00</b>      | <b>3,700.00</b>       | <b>30,323.00</b>      |                            |                  |                            |
| General Reserve                 | 27,927.03             |                       | 24,673.99             |                            |                  |                            |

### **2025-26 (current year) Unbudgeted Expenditure**

Isaac's Well: the parish council is meeting additional cost for the refurbishment.

Allotments Maintenance: Hedge Maintenance cost £1320. In future years regular hedge maintenance will be the responsibility of allotment holders.

Grass cutting and fuel: The council agreed a new contract for grass cutting, which was at a higher cost than originally budgeted.

Bus Shelter: the cost is higher than anticipated but we are expecting partial funding from the North East Combined Area.

Web Site and Email: New regulations mean that we have to make changes to online services this year.

Elections: We have met our share of the election costs for this year.

### **2026-27 (next year) Projects and Cost Increases**

Bus Shelter: As well as the shelter by Allendale Library for north-bound services (due Dec 2025), the council intends to construct a shelter on the opposite side for south-bound services. This depends on partial funding from the North East Combined Area Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Allenheads Trust: The trust carries out village maintenance and tidying services, and the parish support for this has now been reviewed for the first time in several years. The council has increased the support to £1000 a year.

Grasscutting: Inflationary costs mean increases, but the council has agreed fixed prices for the next two years. We will reduce costs by having the county council mow Wentworth Park amenity grass.

Litter Picking: Costs are linked to the National Minimum Wage which will increase in April.

Staff costs: These are pegged to a national scale reviewed annually.

Hearse House, Lych Gate and cemetery Chapel: all need maintenance work to prevent deterioration of the woodwork.

### **Future Reserves**

Play Equipment: The parish council directly manages two childrens' play areas and contributes to costs of the Recreation Ground. The Denefields play area is supported from a fund provided by the developer and managed by the parish council. The other play areas may need parish funding when the equipment reaches the end of life.