

Budget notes for 2026/27 - Draft 1

Summary:

- Suggested budget below suggests a precept of £11,723.00 which is an increase of 5.81% which is too high. £11,614.00 which is an increase of 4.83%, which is high, but within 5%.
- This is mostly due to the increased amount of grass cutting, and the increase in the cost of grass cutting. Both of these are guesses at the moment as I haven't had any quotes (although Leics Gardens has said he will be sending one).
- Some categories have been left the same but could be reduced: Insurance, Training, ICT, Neighbourhood Plan, and Travel.

Income

Interest savings	Reduced expected interest as the interest rate has gone down from 1.1% to 1%
Grass Cutting LCC	Email from LCC to say that the a new Service Level Agreement is being put in place for the next three years 2026-28. Increase will be 10.7% on the current amount, £455.91 reimbursement per year.
VAT refund	This is without any of the grass cutting VAT. LRALC have advised to clear the VAT for the grass cutting (2024 and 2025 seasons) separately within this financial year.

Payments

Clerk's Salary	Last year inflation was 3.6% and pay rise was 3.2%. Inflation seems to be approx. 2.5%. Suggest applying a 3% increase just in case: Total: £3,714.43 Round up: £3,720
Stationery	Ink for Clerk (~£20 ex. VAT per cartridge): 4 x £16.67 = £66.68 Paper for Clerk (£6 ex. VAT per 500 pages): 3 x £5 = £15.00 Ink for newsletter (£75 unsure if this will be used and if it's inc. or ex. VAT) £75.00 Charles Arnold Baker (probably will not be buying, but just in case, for example if EL want the current one back. Unsure if VATable): £225.00 Total: £381.68 Round up: £390

Memberships/Subscriptions	LRALC: LRALC went up by £5 this year from £250 to £255. Suggest £265? (Although they have a history of some strange increases, not really based on anything. Will have accurate figure for January meeting). NALC: NALC have announced their fee will increase by 3.6% next year. Will be £15.21. SLCC: Was £110 this year, it is dependent on my earnings so I don't know how much it increased based on previous year. Suggest £120. $£265 + £15.21 + £120 = £400.21$ Suggest £410.
GDPR / ICO	Is expected to stay that the current rate of £47 when paid by Direct Debit.
Hall Hire	Presume the same?
Internal Audit Fees	Leave as £220 the same as this year. Actual was £200 for this year.
Training	Training is the budget where all of the shortfalls from this year have been taken. It started at £350 this year, but has gone down to £258. The only training used this year will be one course for the Clerk. There may also potentially be new Councillor training? Next year there will be potentially training if there is a new Chair. I have kept the budget as the same for now, though it could probably be reduced.
Insurance	Was £342.19 this year which includes everything and the full amount for the speed signs. I have left as £450, but it could be reduced to £400.
137 Spend	£25 for RBL donation or another poppy wreath?

Grass Cutting	No quotes received, and unsure how many cuts/strims it will be going forward. For this year the current budget (providing no November cut) is £1,890 for 15 cuts (£120/cut) and 3 strims (£30/trim). This increased from £110/cut and £20/trim on previous year. Presume £130/cut and £40/trim for 2026 (ex. VAT), with same amount of cuts and strims. $130 * 15 = £1,950$ $40 * 3 = £120$ Total: £2,070 Quote received from Leics Gardens for £125/cut and £35/trim (presuming ex. VAT), presuming same amount of cuts and strims: $125 * 15 = £1875$ $35 * 3 = £105$ Total: £1980
Street Furniture Maintenance	Nothing spent this year. Leave as £300 again.
Village Improvements	Nothing spent this year. Leave as £150 again.
Loan Repayment	£3,343.74 as usual.
Phone	Will continue to roll over on a monthly contract at £4.40 (£3.67 ex. VAT) $3.67 * 12 = £44.04$ Round up to £60 in case of a surprise price increase?
ICT (website, email domain, cloud)	There will be £87 leftover this year. For next year: Namecheap: approx £45 depending on cost and exchange rate. OneDrive: Was £16.66 (£19.99 ex. VAT) this year, may increase. A likely increase would be to £20.82 (£24.99 ex. VAT) Wix paid for up until 2027 - no charge. The IT reserve is £200. It might be worth keeping more in this category to build up funds in case .gov.uk becomes mandatory? Also, to include IT failures/repairs/replacements. And also for the next Wix payment. $£45 + £20.82 = £65.82$ For the budget I have left the total as the same.
Election Expenses	Keep the same at £140.

Chair's Allowance	Keep the same at £30?
Travel	Unused this year. Keep the same at £30 in case I want to attend something, or reduce?
Defibrillator	£176.00 £126 for or defib maintenance and £50 if you would like to run defib awareness again next year.
Neighbourhood Plan	Leave the same at £200?
VAT	This is likely to change, and will change a lot depending on what Leics Gardens quotes for next year and the number of cuts. Ink: $£3.33 * 4 = £13.32$ Paper: $£1 * 3 = £3$ Phone: $£0.73 * 12 = £8.76$ OneDrive: £4.17 Defib: £25.20 Grass using predicted figures: £414 Grass: £396 Total: £468.45 Round up: £470 Rounds up to: £451
Electricity for road signs	£20 again. The £20 from this year will be added to the MVAS reserve in case they want to start charging for it as discussed last year.
Bank fees	£3/month for Lloyds card. £6/month for Unity account. Total: £108