



### Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2025-26

In January, the Parish Council agreed the new budget for the year 2025-26. As part of this process, we have also determined the resulting precept needed to support our community's needs and services.



The precept is a portion of the council tax collected by Arun District Council to cover costs of the District, County and Parish Councils and Sussex Police. It is the main source of funding for your Parish Council, which receives no government grant, and plays a vital role in funding local services, maintaining our beautiful Parish, and supporting community initiatives. This year's budget aims to enhance our facilities, improve public spaces, and ensure the continued delivery of projects benefitting the Parish. That includes maintaining the council premises, grounds maintenance, tree and floral planting, repairing or replacing public seats, maintaining bus shelters, managing allotments, providing a free summer play scheme at Avisford Park and West Park, our village Christmas tree, discretionary grants to charitable and community organisations, contribution to public toilet facilities, and staff to administrate Council business. The appointment in 2024 of an Assistant Clerk to support the Clerk/RFO, both part time positions, was a planned resourcing decision, however the Government's new rules on Employer National Insurance Contributions was not anticipated and has had a not insignificant impact on costs.

We are acutely aware of the rising cost of living affecting residents, whilst the Council also faces increasing supplier and resourcing costs. In considering the most economical way of continuing to provide a valuable service to the community, the Council has endeavoured to keep any increase to residents as low as is reasonably possible. The agreed budget for 2025-26 results in a precept of £121,909, which is a 6.5% increase on last year's precept: However, when offset by the increased District Council tax base formula, this is reduced to a 4% increase to a Band D (average range) property. This equates to an annual charge of £22.41 for a Band D property, an increase of 89p per annum, or 2p per week.

We hope that residents feel this is still good value for money, and we appreciate your understanding as we work together to make our community a good place to live.

### Trees, hedges and water courses



A polite reminder to residents about looking after land boundaries and water courses! It is your responsibility to ensure that hedges and trees around or adjacent to your property are maintained, not overgrowing adjacent land or footpaths, including cutting back brambles and weeds. Please remember to avoid bird nesting season though, nowadays generally February to August, as it's an offence to disturb active nests. It's also the landowner's riparian duty to ensure ditches and water ways either through or adjacent to your property are cleared of debris and vegetation, which can help prevent some of the issues causing flooding. More information can be found on Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council websites or at this link:

<https://www.arun.gov.uk/watercourses-riparian-responsibilities>

### Meeting dates

Public are always welcome to attend meetings and can ask questions on agenda items during a short adjournment item. Agendas are published on our website / notice boards around a week in advance. **Please check our website for agenda details in case of time/date changes:** **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm ('short' meeting), Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 7pm ('short' meeting). The 'short' meetings precede Full Council meetings. Full Council meetings therefore start at approximately 7.15pm, earlier if there is no Planning Committee. **Full Council** - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

