

# Poringland Parish Council Budget & Precept 2024/2025

## What is a Council Precept?

- A Parish or Town Council precept is a tax charged by Parish, Town, and Community Councils in England and Wales to their local residents.
- The purpose of this tax is to cover spending on essential services within the community.
- These services include maintaining cemeteries, playing fields, toilets, street furniture, open spaces, allotments, bins, parks and more.
- Unlike central government funding, local councils rely on the precept and any other income they generate from services or facilities they provide (such as community centres and sports facility hire)

## What is Budgeting?

- Budgeting is the process of creating a financial plan for a specific period, often a year.
- For local councils, budgeting serves several purposes:
  - Calculation of the precept: It determines the tax amount to be levied.
  - Financial accountability: It ensures responsible management of funds.
  - Spending plan: It represents the parish's future financial needs.
- Think of budgeting as considering what you need and want to spend (like you paying an electricity bill or going on a beach holiday) and aligning it with your income.
  - A well-structured budget helps:
    - Monitor the council's financial position.
    - Identify potential cashflow issues or overspending.
    - Plan for future projects, including costs and ongoing expenses.
    - Ensure all council members understand and contribute to sound financial decision-making.

## Timetable for Budgeting:

- While specific dates vary, here's a general timetable:
  - November/December: The clerk (Responsible Financial Officer) proposes a budget to the council.
  - The budget outlines planned expenditures and other income sources (besides the precept).
  - It includes the precept calculation.
  - The council uses this information to decide the precept for the following year.

In summary, parish council budgets are crucial for financial planning, accountability, and ensuring the well-being of local communities.

### Reason for the Rise in Precept 24/25:

Poringland Parish Council always strive to give the best service to the parish whilst also trying to continue to keep the precept that is passed on to you the homeowner as low as possible. Reasons why Poringland Parish Council have had to raise the precept to 9.29% for 2024/25 are as follows:

- Inflationary Pressures:
  - One of the key factors contributing to a precept increase is inflation.
  - Over recent years, costs for various services and maintenance have risen due to inflationary pressures.
  - These increased costs cannot be absorbed indefinitely, leading to adjustments in the precept amount.
  
- Maintenance and Repair Costs:
  - Council assets, such as public buildings, parks, and community facilities, etc. require ongoing maintenance and occasional repairs.
  - As these assets age or face wear and tear, the associated costs increase.
  - The precept may have to rise to cover these necessary expenses.
  
- Enhanced Communication and Initiatives:
  - Parish councils often invest in initiatives to enhance communication with residents.
  - These initiatives could include newsletters, community events, or digital platforms.
  - Allocating funds for improved communication may lead to a precept increase.
  
- Retendering Contracts:
  - When contracts for services like open spaces/grounds maintenance are retendered, costs may change.
  - If the new contract involves higher charges, the precept might need adjustment.
  
- Changes in Discounts:
  - The precept can also be affected by changes in the number of properties claiming discounts.
  - For example, an increase in properties claiming the single occupancy discount can impact the overall precept.
  
- Future Projects:
  - Future Projects e.g. Community Land Project require a substantial amount of money to achieve the expectations of what the parish want.
  - Reserves have been built to help achieve the vision and grants will also be sourced however, the council have to consider the future additional costs and the maintenance of a completed project.
  
- Staffing:
  - With increasing responsibilities around the parish due to development it has meant that staffing levels have had to increase.
  - Parish Council now have 4 officers to the council, 4 caretakers, 2 café staff who are on regular contracts.

- We also have bank bar staff and a wealth of fabulous volunteers.

In summary, a rise in the precept reflects a careful balance between maintaining essential services, addressing inflation, and ensuring responsible financial management within the local community.

#### Poringland Parish Councils Budget for 2024/25

- The Parish Council receive a quarterly budget review. This allows the council to see what income has been generated but also how the budget is being spent. Adjustments if necessary can be made, but the budget figure should not normally change.
  - The Finance and Governance Advisory Group meet twice to discuss the budget and how that affects the precept with the Clerk/RFO and the Assistant Clerk before the budget is presented to Full Council.
  - Full Council then have the opportunity to suggest and make if necessary and further changes.
  - Precept is always a consideration to the council when setting the budget. Councillors are also residents of the parish and will always want to ensure that their fellow parishioners are getting the best value for their money.
  - Once the Budget and Precept have been agreed, the Clerk/RFO will advise South Norfolk Council of the budget summary and the precept that has been set.
  - South Norfolk Council will look at the budget and precept. If they are concerned with significant rises from Poringland Parish Council, they will ask for further information as to the sum that the parish council have required.

Below is a summary of the budget agreed and the precept set in January 2024 and sent to South Norfolk Council:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		2024/25	
Details	Actual 31/03/22	Actual 31/03/23	Budget	Actual as at 30/10/23	Suggested Budget	+/- on 23/24 budget
<b>INCOME (Savings &amp; Investments)</b>						
General Administration - Interest	77,705	11,920	8,000	9,014	15,000	87.50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77,705</b>		<b>8,000</b>	<b>9,014</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>87.50%</b>
<b>NON-BUSINESS (Expenditure less income)</b>						
Salaries (non trading staff)	147,194	157,418	176,659	83,449	225,274	27.52%
General Administration	21,554	24,360	28,035	14,529	28,909	3.12%
Burial Ground	1,074	6,319	3,800	-	2,380	-37.37%

Outside Spaces (Exp. Less verge delegation income)	4,060	6,672	8,610	1,333	11,754	36.52%
Parish Van	-	-	4,599	1,233	2,318	-49.59%
Miscellaneous	46	2,512	2,250	893	2,000	-11.11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173,836</b>	<b>197,281</b>	<b>223,952</b>	<b>98,508</b>	<b>272,635</b>	<b>21.74%</b>

<b>TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>						
<b><u>BUSINESS EXEMPT (Income less Expenditure)</u></b>						
Community Centre	14,164	-	-	12,994	13,077	-789.01%
<b><u>BUSINESS ARMS (Income less Expenditure)</u></b>						
Café	9,712	3,084	219	-	2,048	-1037.08%
Bar	3,627	4,789	1,565	2,588	5,420	246.33%
Events	316	1,138	1,500	-	1,900	26.67%
<b>TOTAL TRADING PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>27,819</b>	<b>4,359</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>15,027</b>	<b>18,349</b>	<b>1224.30%</b>

<b>PRECEPT (NON-TRADING plus TRADING P/L)</b>	<b>179,363</b>	<b>195,450</b>	<b>214,567</b>	<b>214,567</b>	<b>239,286</b>	<b>11.52%</b>
Inc/Dec on Council Tax Bill	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>4.86%</b>	<b>8.72%</b>		<b>9.29%</b>	
<b>Tax Base</b>	1,965	2,042	2,062		2,104	
<b>Band D</b>	91.28	95.71	104.06		113.73	

### Precept % Increase and What that Actually Means for You:

Rightly so, your council tax bill lands on your door step and the first thing that you see is that Poringland Parish Council have raised your precept by 9.27% from the previous year. Unless you are keeping a close eye from the previous year you may not know what this actually means in terms of your hard-earned money. We hope, that the below table helps you to understand how much your precept has increased from last year, depending on what council tax band your home is classed as. We have also broken down what this means to you on a weekly and monthly basis:

Council Tax Band	Year 24/25	Year 23/24	Difference Per Year	Difference per month	Difference Per Week
Band A	£75.82	£69.37	£6.45	£0.54	£0.12
Band B	£88.46	£80.94	£7.52	£0.63	£0.14
Band C	£101.09	£92.50	£8.59	£0.72	£0.17
Band D	£113.73	£104.06	<b>£9.67</b>	£0.81	£0.19
Band E	£139.00	£127.18	£11.82	£0.98	£0.23
Band F	£164.28	£150.31	£13.97	£1.16	£0.27
Band G	£189.55	£173.43	£16.11	£1.34	£0.31
Band H	£227.46	£208.12	£19.34	£1.61	£0.37

We hope that this gives you some more understanding of how the budget is set but should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the clerk at [clerk@poringland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@poringland-pc.gov.uk)