

# COUNTSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

## EXPLANATION OF INCREASE IN PRECEPT 2026/2027

Below is a summary of the Parish Council's budget for 2026/2027. This year the increase for the precept is 8.74%. Whilst this percentage increase might look high, we encourage residents to look at the monetary amount. The increase in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax for a Band D property is £15.35 with the annual precept requirement being £191.03, increased from £175.68. The increase equates to £1.28 per month.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council faces the same increased running and staff costs as any other organisation/business and employer in an unpredictable financial climate. In addition, the Parish council is having to take into account other unknowns, for example the government's drive forward with local government reorganisation. It is unknown what impact this will have on parish councils at this stage but there could be potential for more services to be devolved to parishes that doesn't always come with financial support, and there is a risk of potential significant election costs to parish councils in 2027.

It should be noted that the District and County councils currently face a cap to increasing their council tax by no more than 5% for general expenditure, services and Adult Social Care, without triggering a local referendum (Residents are advised that they contact the District and County Councils directly for an explanation of any increases in those authorities' budgets). Whilst Parish Councils do not currently face caps, there is always the potential that they can be introduced in future years. Whilst Parish Councils are advised against raising precept requirements to hold unnecessary reserves, it is sensible to have adequate reserves to carry out any essential repair works, either planned or emergency.

This has been the case for the current financial year, where the Parish Council has had to carry out repair works, on top of programmed projects. Previously, the Parish Council has been fortunate to have access for developer contributions for carrying out projects on its open spaces, however, despite the current developments in the village, no contributions have been secured by current housing developments that would enable the Parish Council to carry out improvements. Similarly, parish councils receive no direct funding from central government, unlike County and District Councils, so therefore the precept is our primary source of income to fund local initiatives.

Projects and repair works carried out or for completion in the 2025/2026 financial year included, putting on the well-received VE Day celebration, works to repoint the chapel in the Cemetery, increased contribution towards the Library Summer Reading Challenge for young people in the village, replacement of the blinds in the Library, resurfacing of a stretch of pathway in the Spinney to improve pedestrian access, installation of LED lighting in the workshop, repair works to a stretch of pathway in the closed churchyard, memorial inspection, re-upholstering of a number of conference chairs, additional smoke detectors for the Village Hall, replacement of cooler system serving the bar cellar, essential tree works. Fortunately, the Parish Council has trained staff that can carry out some of these works in-house.

The Parish Council is always respectful of any impact of any increases on residents and itself would always aim to keep any increases to a minimal, however, it is unfortunate now that, having a village hall and library building reaching 30 years old, it is coming to a time where repair works are needed.

A review of the Parish Council's work over the year is received at the Annual meeting of the Parish. This is held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall and residents are invited to attend. The reports will also be published on the Parish Council's website.



## COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Precept requirement for 2026/2027 is £497,618.00 which is based on the following estimated income and expenditure

		2025/26	2026/27
<b>Labour Costs</b>	Staff wages	320455	332079
	<b>Total</b>	<b>320455</b>	<b>332079</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>	Administration (inc. subs)	31120	36328
	Contingency	0000	10000
	Chairman's Allowance	500	500
	Health & Safety (inc play inspection)	3100	3160
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34720</b>	<b>49988</b>
<b>Maintenance of Council Property</b>	Maintenance of Council Property	47400	62140
	Equipment	8100	6800
	Churchyard	1300	1300
	Cemetery	18180	18450
	Vehicle Costs	15700	15935
	Library	6950	10650
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97630</b>	<b>115275</b>
<b>Community &amp; Enhancement</b>	Village Improvements	23779	30069
	Grants	2000	2000
	Events	3400	2850
	Youth Workers	10000	9600
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39179</b>	<b>44519</b>
<b>Repayment of loans</b>	Loans	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6388</b>	<b>7794</b>
<b>Estimated Expenditure</b>		<b>498372</b>	<b>549655</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>	Cemetery Fees, Rent, Agency Work, Grants & Library	<b>15142</b>	<b>23632</b>
<b>Estimated Expenditure less Estimated Income</b>		483230	526023
<b>Less estimated balance from previous year</b>		28902	28405
<b>Precept request</b>		<b>454328</b>	<b>497618</b>