

Parish Council News

- **Lingfest 2025**

The council has committed to funding Lingfest25! Throughout this year a team of people will need to be recruited to help organise and deliver this fantastic community event. Please do get in touch if you are able to support this.

- **CCTV**

After much demand from the community, the council has now installed modern, fully-functioning CCTV at Gun Pond. This will help safeguard this iconic public amenity and the wildlife that call it home.

- **New Clerk**

After almost 20 years the council and the community said goodbye to Fay Elwood as Clerk last year. All our thanks go to her for her hard work. Lee Dunkley was appointed recently to the position and brings 10 years of experience in the profession with him.

- **New Website**

The Council are replacing its current outdated site with a modern, fit-for-purpose, sleek new website which gives the community the information it needs at its fingertips.

- **New Budget**

As you will read elsewhere in this leaflet, the Council have set a new budget for 2024/25 which puts it in a very strong position to invest in projects and future spending for the good of the community.

Contact the Council

To best way to contact the council is by email to the Clerk at lingfieldpc@gmail.com. You can see details of your councillors online at www.lingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk and don't forget to follow us on Facebook.



LINGFIELD
Parish Council

COUNCIL SETS BUDGET TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY

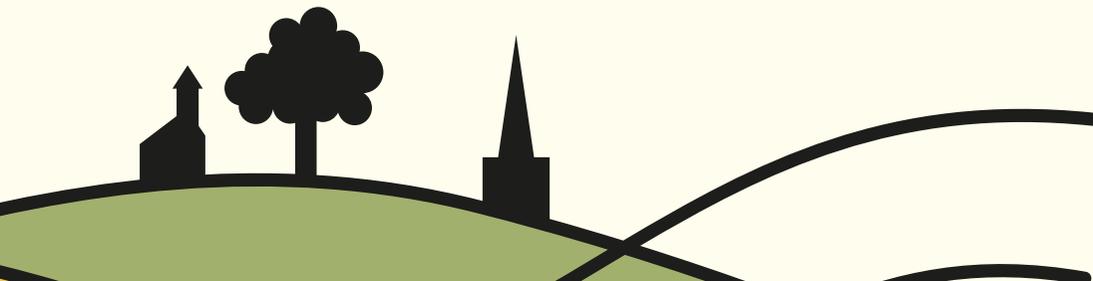
Lingfield Parish Council has set a budget for 2024/25 which increases the investment in the community and plans ahead for projects and bigger items of spending.

The Context

Historically the Council has been setting the precept (amount raised from council tax) rises at below inflation, which has led to it reducing its income in real terms. At the same time, the Council has also increased its spending on things such as managing public space, developing the community pond and installing CCTV, investing in litter picking and allotment management, developing a new website, awarding grants and funding events and projects such as Lingfest, amongst others. The Council was reluctant through the COVID pandemic to raise its precept, or to cut its spending, as it recognised this was an unprecedented time of great need. This means that the Council has funded much of its spending recently by taking from financial reserves. The Council cannot continue to spend from its reserves and must therefore, now replenish these to plan properly for the future. This year (2023/24) the Council set itself a precept income of just £62,400 for the whole year, to cover expected spending of £87,050 – an unsustainable position, but a decision arrived at to try to alleviate the impact on the community of the cost of living crisis and utilities price inflation issues we all experienced last year.

The reserves for the Council serve two purposes:

1. An “emergency” or “general” reserve – to meet audit and legal requirements. the Council must hold a certain proportion of its expected annual expenditure aside. The Council must increase this figure in 2024/25 by £16,000 to meet these requirements.
2. Earmarked reserves – a list of future items of spending that the Council knows about and needs to save for over a number of years. These include things like new Christmas Lights, elections, Lingfest and emergency tree works. The Council as identified that it must increase its earmarked reserves by a total of £26,500 in 2024/25.



The Numbers

There is a helpful graphic overleaf which explains where the Parish Council will spend and invest the money it receives from an average household in 2024/25. The Council is increasing its precept income from £62,400 this year to £120,626 next year (starting in April 2024). This means that a D-band household this year pays £31.78 and from April will pay £61.43 for the whole year – an increase of £29.65 per year (or £2.47 a month; 57p a week). While this is a large percentage increase, the actual figure to be paid from April compares moderately with other parishes in the district, which demonstrates just how much Lingfield Parish Council has suppressed rises in the past. For further context, the other rises on the council tax bill from April are: Police & Crime Commissioner up £13.00; District Council up £7.11; County Council up £83.52.

The Future

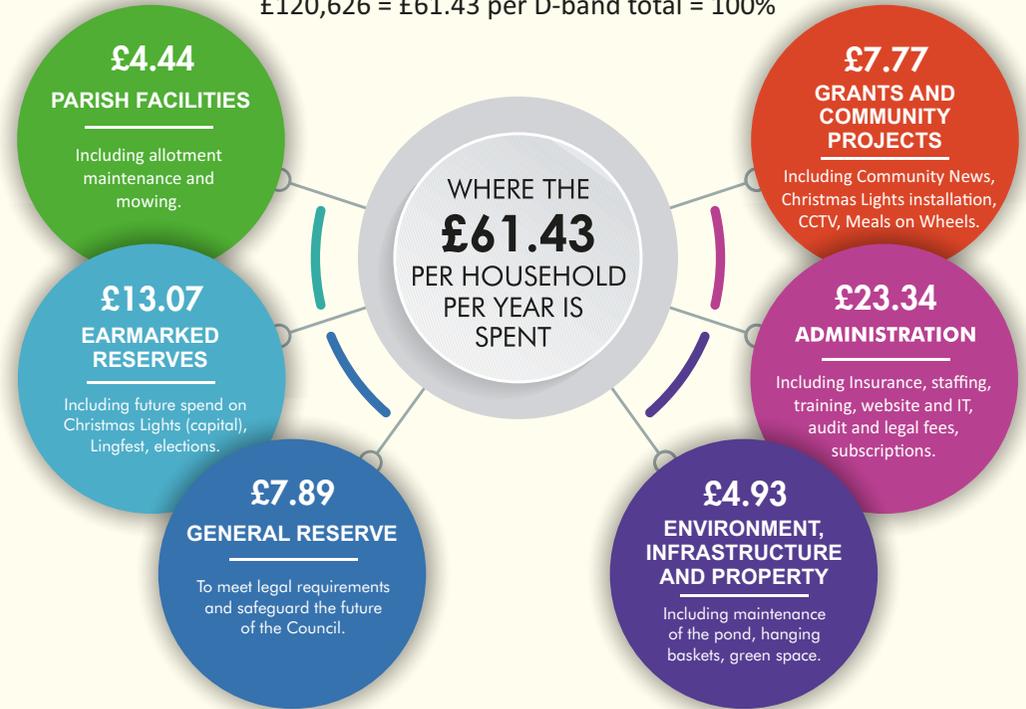
The Council recognises that any increases in household bills are unwelcome, which is why it has kept increases minimal (and made real-time reductions) through COVID and the cost of living crisis. The rise next year is unavoidable as a result of this, but it will ensure that the Council is able to plan its spending carefully over the long term and should help to avoid any more significant increases in the years ahead.

Summary

Lingfield Parish Council has cut its spending power over recent years by making real-terms cuts to council tax to shield households from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. The Council must now replenish its reserves and plan for future spend in a sustainable way. The significant increase in the precept next year should enable the Council to plan effectively and to guard against any large rises in future years.

How your money will be used in 2024/2025

£120,626 = £61.43 per D-band total = 100%



Parish in Tandridge District

2023/24 D-band household

Crowhurst	88.44
Outwood	83.36
Burstow	67.43
Tatsfield	67.03
Horne	66.46
Tandridge	65.69
Nutfield	55.16
Chelsham & Farleigh	49.82
Woldingham	38.42
Chaldon Village	34.09
Dormansland	33.26
Lingfield	31.78
Bletchingley	30.09
Godstone	28.94
Whyteleafe Village	27.77

Parish in Tandridge District 2024/25 D-band household
Illustrative - based on nominal inflationary increase for others

Crowhurst	94.63
Outwood	89.2
Burstow	72.15
Tatsfield	71.72
Horne	71.11
Tandridge	70.29
Lingfield	61.43
Nutfield	59.02
Chelsham & Farleigh	53.31
Woldingham	41.11
Chaldon Village	36.48
Dormansland	35.59
Bletchingley	32.2
Godstone	30.97
Whyteleafe Village	29.71