

## **Clerk's report**

### **Drinkstone Parish Council**

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

#### **2023 elections**

I have received a budget estimate for the elections next year. We need to determine how much we will need in our 2023/2024 budget.

“In preparation for next year's Local Elections, we have calculated the estimated costs for Drinkstone.

You will see that there is an increase on the figures we supplied for 2019, this is driven by a rise in the cost of paper, printing, postage, and staffing.

1. For a Contested Election combined with the District Council Election the estimated fee would be £1,304.15
2. For a standalone Contested Election, the estimated fee would be £1,776.65
3. For an Un-Contested Election, the estimated fee would be £128.58

The figures given above are based on our current understanding of the costs and are subject to change.”

#### **Budget timetable**

The timelines for the 2023/2024 budget are:

1. Budget sub-committee to be established at 10<sup>th</sup> October parish council meeting
2. Mid November we receive the indicative tax base
3. We need to compare the indicative base with our draft budget to determine whether we agree or not
4. Put precept agreement on agenda for discussions and agreement at meeting on 5th December 2022
5. Signed precept forms to be returned to Mid Suffolk by 31/1/23

#### **Grass cutting tender**

I have prepared a draft tender document for the council's review – attached separately.

#### **Insurance**

The Parish's insurance policy renewed on 1st October at a fixed price of £331.97 – the price was fixed last year on a three-year term. I informed the insurer that the cost of the “lest we forget” statues had been added to the asset register.

**Land on Rattlesden Road**

I have informed the two residents enquiring about the availability of Lucy Blake's land that the council is in the process of determining when the land will become available.

**Unity bank account**

We were required to confirm eligibility for the FSCS compensation scheme – this has been completed.

**Interest bearing savings**

In light of the increase in interest rates and the surplus that we are carrying there may be merit in opening a savings account on behalf of the Parish Council. The current balance is, after scheduled payment including the village gates, is £19,700. Our current account generates 0.76% interest. Unity do not offer any competitive products at the moment.

## 2022/3 budget

Drinkstone Parish Council	Financial overview 2022/23	Budget 2022-23	1.46%
			Notes
	Opening Reserves		
<b>INCOME</b>			
precept		£ 9,197.00	
interest			\
Sale of Land Adjacent to Playing Field			
defibb donations			
transparancy grant			
suffolk rural fund			
locality funding			
VAT recovered		£ 500.00	
Wayleave			
Grants			
Credit or under payment			
CIL		£ -	
<b>ALLOTMENTS</b>			
rents			
wayleave			
Refund from Bank indemnity scheme			
<b>Total income</b>		<b>£ 9,697.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Clerk's salary		£ 2,700.00	
grass cutting		£ 1,000.00	
playingfield maintenance		£ 500.00	VIA to earmarked reserves at end of year
Queens canopy project		£ 500.00	
Civic Event		£ 500.00	
HMRC Tax & NI		£ 480.00	
insurance		£ 400.00	
tree maintenance		£ 400.00	
Litter bin emptying		£ 370.00	
training		£ 300.00	VIA to earmarked reserves at end of year
SALC subscription		£ 275.00	
support for local organisations		£ 250.00	
IT licences & subscriptions		£ 200.00	
footpath maintenance		£ 200.00	
internal audit		£ 160.00	
hall hire		£ 160.00	
election costs		£ 110.00	
Defibrillator S137		£ 100.00	
Highways		£ 100.00	New budget line
website		£ 100.00	
grit bins		£ 100.00	
Clerk expenses		£ 80.00	mileage & subsistance only
playingfield inspection		£ 65.00	
Phone Box		£ 50.00	
office stationery		£ 40.00	
ICO registration		£ 35.00	
Bank charge		£ 22.00	
overtime/ contingency			VIA to earmarked reserves at end of year
playingfield equipment			
Land adjacent to playing field			
Registration of Parish Lands			
Neighbourhood Plan			
VAT paid			
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>£ 9,197.00</b>	