Clerk and RFO to the Council
Emma Freemantle

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WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS FINANCE REPORT 2024/2025
For the Annual Parish Meeting - MONDAY 28th APRIL 2025.

I am pleased to present the financial overview for Wroughton Parish Council for the financial year 2024/25.

Precept Overview

Last year's approved precept resulted in a modest increase of 39p per week, or £20.28 annually for a Band D property. The total Band D equivalent annual contribution was £196.42. The increase over 2024/2025 as always, allowed us to continue providing and improving essential services, support staff resources, and undertake larger capital projects that benefit all residents of Wroughton.

We are also pleased to let residents know that **there is no increase** for this current years precept charge.

How Your Precept was Spent

To help you understand where your contribution goes, the Parish Council's budget is allocated across five main service areas:

- **Grounds Services – 59.2%** Our largest area of expenditure, this covers:

  Grass cutting and general grounds maintenance
  Tree inspections and maintenance
  Litter picking and fly-tipping removal
  Emptying of litter and dog waste bins
  Maintenance and purchase of grounds machinery and vehicles
  Sports pitch upkeep and pavilion facilities
  Cleaning and maintenance of community spaces
  Allotments and play area repairs
  Seasonal planting and the upkeep of Moat Pond
  Maintenance of Middle and West Wichelstowe
  Salaries and equipment for our growing Grounds Team

- **Central Services – 26.6%- This supports:**

  Parish Office rental and operational costs
  Salaries for administrative staff
  Councillor allowances
  Youth service provision and training initiatives

- **Central Administration & Fees – 5.9% Covers:**

    General administration and support costs
    Membership subscriptions
    Insurance premiums
    Internal and external audit costs
    Professional and legal advice

- **Library – 7.1% - Maintaining and supporting Wroughton Library, including:**

    Staffing and extended hours
    Community events and programming
    Room rental and utility costs

- **Events – 1.2% - Delivering well-loved community events, including:**

    Christmas lights and tree
    The Christmas switch-on celebration
    Underwriting of the Wroughton Carnival

<u>What did we achieve</u>
Thanks to the increased budget over the last 12 months, we have been able to fund the following new or enhanced services:

- ☑ Full schedule of Parish tree maintenance
- ☑ Two new Grounds Team staff members
- ☑ New tools and machinery, including hedge trimmers and moss removal equipment
- ☑ Improved workshop facilities
- ☑ Upgraded cleaning contracts for all Council-managed buildings
- ☑ Increased maintenance budget for Ellendune Community Centre
- ☑ Enhanced financial software for better transparency
- ☑ Rising insurance and utilities costs absorbed
- ☑ Additional library support and staffing hours
- ☑ Increased fly-tipping disposal licensing and waste collection fees
- ☑ Boosted play area maintenance budget
- ☑ Additional dual purpose bins in various locations

Currently we have over £130,000 of S106 funds which unfortunately come with restrictions and legal parameters, however we are working towards specific projects to allocate these.

There is also the receipt of £126,0100 CIL funds from Swindon Borough Council, these funds are to be allocated to the parish councils priorities over the next few years. Each committee has looked at the projects and priorities and are discussed at a committee level.

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The Parish Council is committed to delivering value for money while investing in the long-term maintenance and improvement of its facilities and services.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement

Emma Freemantle,
Clerk to Wroughton Parish Council.