




Milborne Port Parish Council



**Budget & Precept
2024/25**



Some Of The Services We Provide Locally:

The Cemetery
(Wheathill Lane)

Allotments
(Gainsborough)

The Library
(In the Town Hall)

Recreational
Facilities
Inc Gainsborough &
Springfield Play Parks

Open Spaces
Inc Grove Garden,
the Ball Court &
Churchyard

The Town Hall
(Home for the W.I.)

**Community
Office & Staff**

Street Furniture:
Bins, Grit Bins,
Seats

Joint projects and
supporting local
community groups
(Grants!)



**THE VILLAGE HALL -
SPRINGFIELD**



**THE PLAYING FIELDS
COMMITTEE -
SPRINGFIELD**



**FRIENDS OF MP
LIBRARY / THE
LIBRARY**



**MILBORNE PORT
FOODSHARE**



**MILBORNE PORT
FOOTBALL CLUB**



MILBORNE PORT W.I.



**THE SPIRIT OF
MILBORNE PORT**



Organisations
that the
Parish
Council has
supported:

Organisations that the Parish Council has supported:



The Climate & Nature Group (free use of council chamber)



The History and Heritage Group (Use of Cemetery Chapel)



Milborne Port In Bloom (Various small initiatives)



The Community Website (Free page for any local group)



The Primary School (Grant of over £5,000 given this year and last)



(...all of whom are hoping for continued support in 2024/25)

New Services We Are Taking On:



A YOUTH WORKER

JOINTLY WORKING WITH CASTLE
CARY, WINCANTON & BRUTON
TOWN COUNCILS



THE TRUSTEESHIP OF THE VILLAGE HALL



The Current Position for this year (2023/24)



The RFO is predicting a reserves spend at year end of about £10,000 – This will be what was expected / budgeted for last year.



The general reserve will be about £100,000 at the end of the year, with earmarked funds of £60,000.



During the year the Council received £19,197 in S106 revenue payments – the year before it was £10,302 – these are one-off up-front payments to pay for maintenance of equipment over 10 years.



Somerset Council faces a challenging financial situation and have declared a Financial Emergency.



How is Milborne Port Parish Council funded?


Most of the Parish Council's income comes from the local council tax, but in addition to this;

The Parish Council makes around £10,000 from service incomes (Cemetery, Allotments, Town Hall)

This year the Parish Council will have spent over £118,000 of S106 money
(Developer contribution money – Not taxpayers)

The Parish Council's current precept is £132,705
The Council Tax is £112.75 per Band D household

Residents' contribution to the Parish Council makes up less than 8% of the total council tax bill



Why the budgeted spend has increased...



Somerset Council looks like it will be going effectively bankrupt meaning that some services will have to be picked up by the parish council or lost. The full consequences of this are not yet fully known.



- The committees want to carry out three new projects during 2024/25
- The Parish Council is taking on a youth service and paying for a member of staff to manage the Village Hall.



The cost of maintaining & delivering all the current services continues to increase, with inflation running high.

The Budget Process:

The Committees meet in November / December to review the current spending that they are responsible for and to agree their budget for the following year:

The Planning & Environment Committee debated its budget in October & November and has agreed a budget.

The Management Committee looked at its budget in November and the projects it wants to carry out and has agreed a budget.

The Full Council has scrutinised the General Administration costs and projects in December and agreed a budget. The HR Committee has also resolved on its requirements in November

The agreed funding requirements from all the committees are all added together to form the Council's budget = Zero-based budgeting = best practise.



Milborne Port Parish Council

Budget 2024/25

General Administration Costs:

	Full Council / H.R.	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
	General Admin:	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
4	Training (Staff & Councillors)	£ 900	£ 900	£ 700	£ 800	£ 833	£ 900
6	Members Expenses			£ 250	£ 200	£ 50	£ 200
8	SLCC Fees	£ 100	£ 140	£ 160	£ 273	£ 242	£ 250
9	SALC Fees	£ 800	£ 810	£ 830	£ 842	£ 869	£ 890
15	Hall Hire					£ 40	£ 50
16	Travel Expenses	£ 300	£ 200	£ 200	£ 220	£ 321	£ 250
17	Website Costs	£ 500	£ 400	£ 200	£ 200	£ 155	£ 200
18	Telephone/Broadband	£ 800	£ 800	£ 650	£ 400	£ 341	£ 400
19	Office Costs & Stationery	£ 1,700	£ 1,500	£ 1,600	£ 1,500	£ 1,483	£ 1,550
20	Software Subscriptions (Zoom, Microsoft)	£ 510	£ 400	£ 350	£ 250	£ 250	£ 250
21	Accounting Software		£ 385	£ 480	£ 648	£ 468	£ 500
22	Mobile Phone Credit		£ 120	£ 140	£ 140	£ 136	£ 120
25	Elections / Covid Contingency	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,000	Diss		
34	Insurance	£ 3,000	£ 2,656	£ 2,800	£ 2,900	£ 2,062	£ 2,100
35	External Audit fees	£ 500	£ 400	£ 400	£ 600	£ 420	£ 630
66	ICO Fees	£ 35	£ 35	£ 35	£ 35	£ 35	£ 35
67	Postage Stamps	£ 100	£ 300	£ 250	£ 200	£ 105	£ 150
73	Internal Audit Fees	£ 1,000	£ 750	£ 750	£ 825	£ 725	£ 825
	Bank / Card Fees	£ 100					
		£ 11,845	£ 11,296	£ 10,795	£ 10,033	£ 8,535	£ 9,300

Community Grants & Full Council Projects:

Full Council		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
Community Grants / FC Projects:		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
31	Legal Fees / Costs				£ 2,000	£ 5,563	£ 3,000
33	Christmas Tree	£ 260	£ 170	£ 200	£ 750	£ 375	£ 650
36	Community Grants/Donations	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	£ 12,000	£ 19,846	£ 20,000
37	[EMF] D'fib costs					£ 179	£ 100
92	Litter Pick				£ -	£ 109	£ 100
New	Village Hall Running Costs Grant						£ 9,000
201	Youth Council Budget			£ 4,000	£ 2,000	£ -	Diss
203	Project: Local Council Award				£ -	£ 50	Diss
204	Youth worker contract				£ -	£ 4,000	£ 10,000
23001	Project: S'Field Car Park Fencing				£ 2,000	£ 1,888	Diss
23002	S106 Project: Ball Stop Nets				Self Funding	Self Funding	Diss
23008	S106 Project: S 'Field New Play Equmnet				Self Funding	Self Funding	Diss
23009	S106 Project: youth shelter				Self Funding	Self Funding	Diss
23010	[EMF] S106 Project: Sports Pavilion						£ 5,000
23011	R'ment Cost Ass					£ 1,795	Diss
23012	S106 Project: Tennis Courts				Semi-Self Fundi	£ 5,000	Diss
New	S106 Project: S 'Field New Play Equmnet P2						S106
New	S106 Project: MUGA						S106
85	Project: Relocation of Arbour	£ 3,000					
		£ 10,000	£ 10,000	£ 14,000	£ 18,750	£ 33,242	£ 47,850

Library & Full Council Total:

Full Council		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
Library Provision:		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
38	Staffing Grant (Paid to SC)	£ 9,070	£ 9,340	£ 9,620	£ 9,620	£ 9,574	£ 10,051
39	Other Running Costs (Inc Bus Electricity)	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 500	£ 282	Diss
89	Library Town Hall Electricity			£ -	£ 5,000	£ 3,754	£ 4,000
		£ 10,070	£ 10,340	£ 10,620	£ 15,120	£ 13,610	£ 14,051

	2024/25	2023/24
Full Council:	£ 71,201	£ 43,903



H.R. Budget:

Expected outturn this year
£36,500

HR Committee requirement for 2024/25:

£53,500

This includes provision for a new employee to manage the Village Hall for upto 15 hours per week

Open Spaces - Including Projects:

The Management Committee		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
Open Spaces (Inc Projects):		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
40	Contracted Grass Cutting / Hedge	£ 12,800	£ 7,000	£ 7,100	£ 7,460	£ 6,874	£ 7,500
41	Tree Works / Parish Repair / Maintenance	£ 3,000	£ 5,000	£ 3,000	£ 4,000	£ 3,000	£ 5,000
43	Community Woodland	£ 250	£ 150	£ 150	£ 165	£ -	Diss
44	Parish Ranger Scheme	£ 10,500	£ 10,500	£ 10,500	£ 9,500	£ 8,100	£ 9,500
50	Churchyard Exps / Mower Maint / fuel	£ 4,000	£ 200	£ 200	£ 155	£ 3,000	£ 500
62	Hanging Baskets	£ 2,000	£ 1,340	£ 1,380	£ 2,000	£ -	£ 2,000
63	Watering of H/Baskets				£ 2,000	£ -	Diss
70	Footpaths Warden Costs				£ 200	£ 50	£ 200
23003	New Fence Gains' Play Park				£ 5,000	£ 500	£ -
23004	Repair Ball Court Flooring				£ 5,000	£ 2,000	£ -
23005	Sandblast Rails Churchyard + Cem				£ 2,000	£ -	£ -
23006	Allotment Entrance Tarmac				£ 2,000	£ -	£ -
23007	Springfield Entrance Landscape				£ 750	£ 500	£ -
New	Bird boxes						£ 1,000
New	Service & Software Tennis Gate						£ 500
New	S106 Pro: Cem Ex: D'stone & Grassing						self-funding
81	Project: Ball Court Wall	£ 2,000					
82	Project: Churchyard footpaths	£ 4,000					
83	Project: Seats repair and paint	£ 500					
80	Waste/ Dog Bin Replacements	£ 450					
84	Project: Water fountain (Gans)	£ 400					
78	Project: Trees & Shrubs (Cem)	£ 1,500					
37	Loan Repayment	£ 3,400	£ 3,390				
86	Project: Seat / bench for Arbour		£ 750				
45	Odd-job person (Self-employed)			£ 7,800	N/A		
55	Materials / Tools for Groundsman			£ 2,500	N/A		
400	Project: Corner Clear Cemetery			£ 1,000	N/A		
401	Project: New Fence Cemetery			£ 2,000	N/A		
402	Project: Skatepark resurface			£ 5,000	N/A		
403	Project: D'fib Cemetery				N/A		
404	Project: Chapple Roof				N/A		
407	Project: Spoil Heap Removal				N/A		
		£ 41,400	£ 24,190	£ 22,330	£ 40,230	£ 24,024	£ 26,200

Allotments & Cemetery:

The Management Committee		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
Allotments:		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
52	Water rates	£ 1,030	£ 800	£ 400	£ 385	£ 457	£ 500
53	Repairs & Maintenance	£ 2,540	£ 3,140	£ 3,000	£ 500	£ 1,696	£ 500
91	NAA Membership				£ 65	£ 55	£ 60
		£ 3,570	£ 3,940	£ 3,400	£ 950	£ 2,208	£ 1,060

The Management Committee		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
The Cemetery / Chapel:		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
49	Non-domestic Rates	£ 1,850	£ 2,100	£ 2,400	£ 2,610	-£ 584	£ -
79	Repairs / Maintenances	£ 1,500	£ 2,000	£ 1,500	£ 700	£ 600	£ 700
		£ 3,350	£ 4,100	£ 3,900	£ 3,310	£ 16	£ 700

Play Parks:

The Management Committee		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
Play Parks (Springfield & Gainsborough)-		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
54	Playgrounds Inspections	£ 400	£ 400	£ 250	£ 265	£ 365	£ 400
56	Repairs & Maintenance	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,600	£ 3,000	£ 2,500	£ 3,000
		£ 1,900	£ 1,900	£ 1,850	£ 3,265	£ 2,865	£ 3,400

Springfield Recreation:

The Management Committee		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
Springfield Recreation Ground-		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
42	Dog Waste Bins Emptying (Springfield)	£ 3,100	£ 2,800	£ 2,900	£ 2,970	£ 2,688	£ 2,970
57	Pavilion Toilet Cleaning / Drains	£ 1,600	£ 1,600	£ 1,600	£ 1,910	£ 1,988	£ 2,100
58	Toilet Equipment / Supplies / Maintenance		£ 100	£ 50	£ 300	£ 173	£ 200
61	Dog Poo Bags		£ 100	£ 100	£ 180	£ 250	£ 250
74	Hedge Cutting (Car Park)				£ 500	£ 480	£ 500
75	Grass Cutting (separated from all other areas)		£ 6,000	£ 5,600	£ 5,400	£ 4,868	£ 5,400
23013	Burnt Table (replacmnet of)					£ 125	£ -
		£ 4,700	£ 10,600	£ 10,250	£ 11,260	£ 10,572	£ 11,420

The Town Hall:

The Management Committee		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Estimated	2024-25
The Town Hall-		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Budget
5	Cleaning / Cleaner	£ 200			£ 2,000	£ 2,113	£ 1,800
27	Non-domestic Rates	£ 650	£ 720	£ 820	£ 1,030	£ -	£ -
28	Electricity	£ 700	£ 500	£ 400	£ 1,800	£ 1,000	£ 1,800
29	Water	£ 200	£ 110	£ 110	£ 270	£ 172	£ 200
30	[EMR] Repairs / Maintenance	£ 6,000	£ 7,500	£ 7,500	£ 7,500	£ 10,521	£ 5,000
32	Fire Safety Service	£ 210	£ 280	£ 200	£ 240	£ 200	£ 250
64	Cleaning Supplies	£ 50	N/A	£ 40	£ 200	£ 48	£ 100
		£ 8,010	£ 9,110	£ 9,070	£ 13,040	£ 14,054	£ 9,150

	2024-25	2023-24
Management	£ 51,930	£ 72,055

Planning & Environment:

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	Estimated Outturn	2024-25 Budget
Planning & Environment Committee:						
146 Streetscape & Signage	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 500	£ 200	£ 1,000
152 [EMR] Community Hub		£ 7,500	£ 7,500	£ 5,000	Earmarked	£ 5,000
153 Built Environment Projects				£ 1,000	£ -	Diss
New NEW (second) SID						£ 3,000
New LCWIP Audit						£ 500
New MP Village Sign (Ven House) revamp						£ 2,000
121 Neighbourhood Plan						
150 [EMR] Multi-use Access Trail		£ 3,000		EMR Diss		
151 Contingency for Play Areas Development		£ 3,500				
	£ 1,000	£ 8,500	£ 8,500	£ 6,500	£ 200	£ 11,500

Total Budget 2024/25:

- ▶ Last years Budget was £156,458
- ▶ This year's budget is an 20.2% increase in spend

	2024/25
Full Council:	£ 71,201
Human Resources:	£ 53,500
Management	£ 51,930
Planning & Environment:	£ 11,500
	£ 188,131

The Council's Incomes:

Receipts / Income :		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
901	Bank account interest	£ 150	Zero	Zero	£ 400	£ 3,000
68	Communty Room	£ 268	£ 277	£ 277	£ 500	£ 500
47/48	Memorials/ Burials/ Purchases	£ 5,000	£ 6,000	£ 5,500	£ 6,000	£ 4,500
51	Allotment Rents	£ 1,400	£ 2,455	£ 2,600	£ 2,675	£ 2,800
904	Wayleaves	£ 88	£ 88	£ 88	£ 88	£ 100
903	Electric Car Charge					£ 100
26	Town Hall Room		£ 720	£ 720	£ 720	£ 720
		£ 6,906	£ 9,540	£ 9,185	£ 10,383	£ 11,720

The 2024/25 Budget:

Total Spend:


The 2024/25
budget total is:
£188,131

Total Income:

The expected
income 2024/25 is:
£11,720

Difference to be funded:

The difference is:
£176,411
(Last year £144,475)



The 2024/25 Precept Decision:

Budget:

£188,131

Income:

£11,720

Difference to be
funded:

£176,411

The Parish Council is holding a healthy reserve, this gives the council options and allows for unknown costs:

The decision the Parish Council needs to make is should the council dig in deeply to these reserves to offset some of the increase in the council tax?

Or should the Parish Council leave its reserves largely untouched as it is still not known what extra costs may come the Parish Council's way from Somerset Council?

Or is the middle road the best option?

The RFO has prepared three options to assist the Council in its decision making.

Options for the Precept...

2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25
£ 146,075	£ 176,411	£ 176,411	£ 176,411
	Option A	Option B	Option C
£ 13,370	No spend from reserve	£ 10,000	£ 20,000
£ 132,705	£ 176,411	£ 166,411	£ 156,411
112.75 Band D	147.22 Band D	138.87 Band D	130.53 Band D
£9.31 ex per year	£34.47 ex per year	£26.12 ex per year	17.78 ex per year

900 **The Precept**

How Milborne Port Parish Council compares (2023/24 figures)

Council	Precept	Band D per Household
Bruton	£160,161	£164.71
Castle Cary	£201,350	£236.57
Langport	£107,285	£325.05
Henstridge	£73,447	£106.44
Martock	£432,057	£248.41
South Petherton	£241,500	£159.02
Wincanton	£406,294	£183.06
Milborne Port	£132,705	£112.75



What About Somerset Council?

- ▶ It is almost certain that Somerset Council will increase their part of the Council Tax bill by as much as they are legally allowed – this being 5%
- ▶ Current Somerset Council Band D Charge £1,646.04
- ▶ With a 5% increase £1,728.34 - £82.30 per year
- ▶ Extra services that will be delivered – None
- ▶ Services that will be cut – Most of them

Looking ahead....

More Homes / Increase in Population...

While more homes do equal more S106 money and more people paying into the council tax pot, they also mean more strain on the existing infrastructure and Parish Council resources.

A Smaller Somerset Council...

Even if Somerset Council do manage to avoid effective bankruptcy, it will be a much-changed organisation with a lot less staff, delving very few services.

Cross Council Working...

With many services, it will make a lot of sense for local Town / Parish Councils to work together in delivery.

This has already happened with a new youth service for the area.

The Parish Council should remain open minded as to what other provisions there could be.



The Decision....

- ▶ Milborne Port Parish Council held a formal Full Council meeting on **Tuesday 9th January 2024** to resolve on the precept level.
- ▶ After much debate, the council unanimously resolved to go for the middle option (B) and set the precept at £166,411
- ▶ This will be an increase of £26.12 per year for a band D property.

Other points noted at the January meeting:

- ▶ The current Parish Council forecast for reserves spend this year is £17,000 – this is a little higher than expected.
- ▶ While the slides above show what a Somerset Council increase of what 5% would look like, the latest news is that Somerset Council are looking to increase by 10%