

## **FINAL BUDGET 2025-26**

### **Note 1: Clerk's Salary**

I have increased this amount slightly due to the changeover of clerk and the pension payments that will need to be made with new clerk.

### **Note 2: Publicity**

This has gone back up to its usual amount.

### **Note 3: Grasscutting**

BGG is raising its fees slightly and Allen Landscaping is increasing the areas it cuts so their price is also rising slightly. However, the overall figure for this category is staying the same as it will cover these higher charges.

### **Note 4: Audit**

I have put this down because the new internal auditor is charging less than her predecessor.

### **Note 5: Training**

I have raised this because of the increase in the cost of courses and the arrival of a new clerk who may want to attend several courses.

### **Note 6: Petty Cash**

I have lowered this as we are now using cheaper printer cartridges.

### **Note 7: Dog bins**

I have increased this as PetWasteSolutions are increasing their charges by 10% (having not increased their costs for several years).

### **Note 8: S137**

The parish council agreed this should be increased to £1,500 given how many good causes need help and that LPC's total S137 is still way below what is allowed.

### **Note 9: Website**

This needs to go up because of the increased costs including gov.uk emails for all.

### **Note 10: Defibrillators**

I have dropped this as there are no new batteries needed in the coming year.

Given that LPC has been told by both internal and external auditors that our reserves are low, it is proposed that we raise the contingency reserves to £6,000.

Using these figures, LPC's precept for 2025-26 would be £23,000. (See 3<sup>rd</sup> draft precept sheet).

SODC's provisional tax base for Lewknor parish in 2025-26 is 330.5 (down from 333 in 2024-25). This means that based on the proposed precept, within the total council tax bill each Band D household in Lewknor parish will pay £69.59 for the year towards running the parish (up from £60.06 last year).

Note: the remaining CIL money is ring-fenced for special projects and cannot be used for day-to-day expenditure.

*Donna Evans*

(Clerk/RFO)

12 Jan 2025