

# Blofield Parish Council

## Finance Budget Setting Report – December 2025

- a) Reserves Balance sheet and
- b) Budget Setting document

### 1. RESERVES POSITIONS at 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025:

**Churchyard reserves** - The Council has ample reserves for the churchyard currently at £21,680.35. A further section of the churchyard wall will be repaired at a cost of approximately £6,000 in 2026/27. Some church gravestones still require repair and some works following a tree survey are required.

**Courthouse reserves** – £11,520.02 of reserves are held for the Courthouse currently. £2,000 will be allocated to this reserve in 2026/27 budget.

**Marty's Marsh Reserves** – Are currently held at £14,971.41. This is ample at the current time. Parish Partnership Funding for 2026/27 has been applied for, for path improvement at this site. Depending on grants obtained, some of this reserve will also be needed to match fund.

**Future Capital projects reserves** - The Council holds £25,712.13 in this reserve. It is anticipated this will be spent on the community hub's utilities split and site split fencing (£10,000 for the moving of the utilities and £10,000 fencing between sites; these costs will be split with NCC). In addition, legal costs for the land transfer and set up of the rental agreement with Preschool. A further £5,000 will be allocated to this reserve in 2026/27 budget.

**Playground Equipment Reserve** – This holds £5,000 of reserve. At the end of 2025/26 it is anticipated that the cost centre for Blofield Park Play and land will be underspent. Any balance will be transferred into this reserve to increase this reserve.

**Grant Reserve** – This still holds a grant (£532.99 & £3.39 of underspend) received from our BDC District Councillor Paul Newstead for a bench on the 'old school site' or in the parish.

**Wygates Area 1&2 and Wygates Area 3 Reserves** – These are both currently supported from the commuted maintenance sum provided by the developers. However, this will rapidly diminish so for 2026/27 £1000 will be added to each of these reserves (approximately half 1 year of maintenance costs).

**Defibrillator Reserve** – This has been set up for 2025/26 and a further sum allocated for 2026/27 as the Council has taken on maintenance and ownership of the defibrillator at Margaret Harker Hall (MHH) and Heathlands Community Centre.

**CIL Community Grant Reserve** - The Council has established a community facilities grant for 2025/26 with some CIL funds. This Grant is subject to Parish Council funds, and there can be no legitimate expectation that it will always be available in the future; Parish Council funds come from precept taxes from the parishioners of Blofield and it may not always be possible to provide grant opportunities. This will be reviewed annually as part of budget setting. For 2025/26 a small reserve has been allocated of £1,000 to the community facility grant reserve. For 2026/27 budgeting, no reserve has been added. It will hold £16,000 for the following 3 years and further.

**CIL Reserve** – £150,142.24 is the balance of CIL funds the Council has in reserve at this time. It is likely to be required to purchase allotment land for the parish.

**Community Hub Project Reserve** – This has commenced with £772,883.93 of council CIL funds. This represents all the funds the Council has agreed to spend on the Community Hub

Project. In addition to this, the Council has £227,116.07 of section 106 funds (held by BDC) to put towards the Hub Project. Grants are being sought from various other sources to support this project.

**Various small Reserves** are held for a variety of aspects in the parish to ensure funds are available should maintenance be required.

## 2. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANT

The Council provides a *contribution* to grounds maintenance for both the MHH site and Heathlands site; this is not a fixed sum and may vary from year to year subject to precept availability. This is assistance to the facilities in lieu of the council not owning any community land. The Council land ownership has changed over recent years and is likely to change in the future too as the Council now owns Marty's Marsh and Wyngates Areas 1&2 and will be coming into receipt of Wyngates Area 3 and most significantly, the outdoor north section of the old school site (now known as Blofield Park). The Council continues to strive to do all it can to support and help the community facilities within the parish.

The working group discussed these contributions. Costs continue to rise for all parties however the Council continues to strive to avoid large increases in the parish precept. The Council agreed to increase the total budget to £6600. The Council agreed to provide MHH with £3,600 and increase the Heathlands contribution by £500 to £3,000 in recognition of the increased site cutting costs anticipated for 2026/27.

## 3. ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL RENT

Maintain the allotments annual rental at £50 for the cost of a full plot per annum. The Council holds a healthy reserve for the allotments. The Council continues to look for alternative allotment land as the lease on the land runs out in 2032 and may not be renewed.

## 4. PRECEPT

The Working Party propose setting the precept for 2026/27 at £119,600 an increase of £7,400. However, the number of 'average' band D properties has reduced in the parish from 1671 to 1666 the resulting estimated total cost is £71.79 per year or £5.98 per month, an increase of approximately £0.38 per month for each band D house in the Parish. This is an increase of approximately 6.8% to each household.

Table of approximate figures of precept changes...

Year of budget	House numbers for current year	House numbers for budget year	Precept	Approximate Cost per B and D house	Approx. Cost per B and D home per month	% Increase on previous year
2021/22			£94,000	£63.71	£5.31	2.7%
2022/23	1514	1571	£97,500	£62.06	£5.17	
2023/24	1571	1607	£99,700	£62.04	£5.17	0
2024/25	1607	1648	£105,000	£63.71	£5.31	2.7%
2025/26	1648	1671	£112,200	£67.15	£5.60	5.4%
2026/27	1671	1666	£119,600	£71.79	£5.98	6.8%

*Sarah Osbaldeston*

Parish Clerk  
8 December 2025