

February 22, 2025

Meeting

Members of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council are summoned to attend a meeting of the council. Those attending may do so remotely (link on our website) or by being physically present at the Field Study Centre, Amelia Trust Farm on **Thursday 27th February 2025 at 7pm**. Members of the public are welcome, and encouraged to attend, and will have opportunity to address the council.

The meeting will be held in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The Act makes permanent provision for remote meetings (multi-location) and electronic publication of documents. The meeting will be recorded to ensure the accuracy of the Minutes.

Cllr Ian Perry - Chair

Agenda

- 1. Chair's welcome and introduction**
- 2. To accept apologies for absence**
- 3. To receive declarations of interest**
- 4. To approve Minutes**
 - a. Meeting of February 11
- 5. Feedback from Warm-up with a Cuppa – Baffle Haus**
- 6. Clerks' activity report and updates on Community Council projects**
 - a. Planting of living bollards
 - b. Warm Up with a Cuppa – March 12
 - c. VE Day 80 – Thursday, May 8 – Piper booked for 6pm. Fish & chips to follow. Band required.
 - d. Walk and afternoon tea on the Village Green – Bonvilston. June 1. Music from Barry Brass
 - e. Walk and afternoon tea on the Village Green – St Nicholas. Proposed June 29. Music from the Bayside Boogiemmen
 - f. VJ Day 80 – August 15 – proposed Skyliners Big Band, Saturday August 16 or Sunday, 17.
- 7. Planning decisions and updates**
- 8. To consider planning matters**
 - a. Land adjacent to Hellas, Twyn Bach, St Nicholas
Construction of a single residential dwelling on land adjacent to Hellas.
Reconsultation.

9. To consider

- a. Milton Keynes, accessible pedestrian gates at Bonvilston
- b. Telephone box refurbishment

10. To consider financial matters

- a. Payments received
- b. Bank balance
- c. Payments to Approve
- d. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972
- e. Potential grants to St Nicholas Church
- f. To approve the Budget for 2025-26
- g. To agree Reserves
- h. To approve the Precept for 2025-26

11. Community Council Support Officer – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

- a. To confirm contract terms

12. Next meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 7pm.

Part ii – The public and press may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of sensitive item(s) in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, where necessary, by resolution of the Council.



Supporting Documentation

Chair's welcome and introduction

The Chair will confirm quorum.

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council intends to provide a safe, friendly and productive place for friends, neighbours and all residents in our community to come together to be constructive, collaborative, to share ideas and problems and seek advice, support and/or actions for the benefit of our community and future generations. The Community Council has a duty to the health and well-being of all residents, including employees and members of the council.

Please raise your hand when you wish to speak and the Chair will bring you in at the appropriate time. Please do not participate in conversations whilst other are speaking. Please keep to the topic raised for discussion or consideration.

Section 48 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act, 2021, makes provision for public participation at full community council meetings or those part of meetings which are open to the public. Whilst members of the public cannot participate in the debate, they may make representations. To speak, a members of the public must raise their hand and the Chair will grant permission when appropriate.

Members of the public may raise matters of concern to them in writing or verbally in the Discussion Forum at the meeting of February 11. This section of the meeting does not allow for formal decisions to be taken by the council.

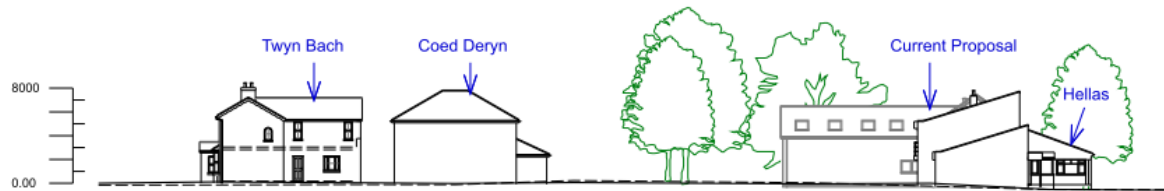


Planning Applications

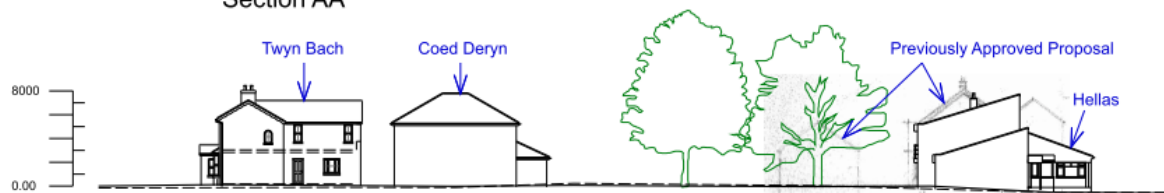
Land adjacent to Hellas, Twyn Bach, St Nicholas – [2025/00090/FUL](#)

Construction of a single residential dwelling on land adjacent to Hellas.

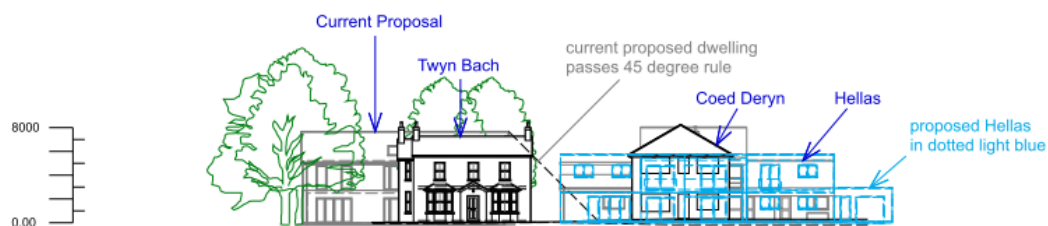
Amended plans – Reconsultation.



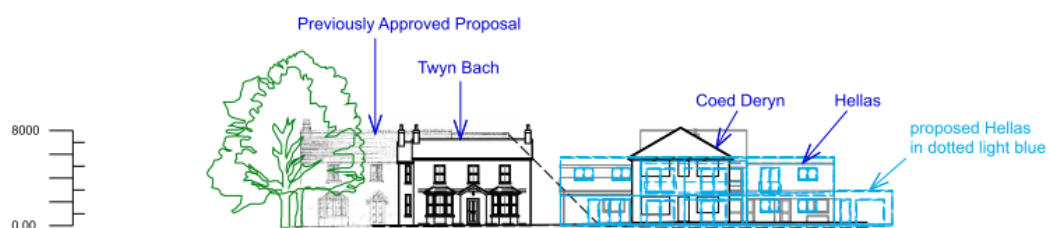
Section AA



Section AA (with previously approved - 2016/00717/FUL)



Section BB



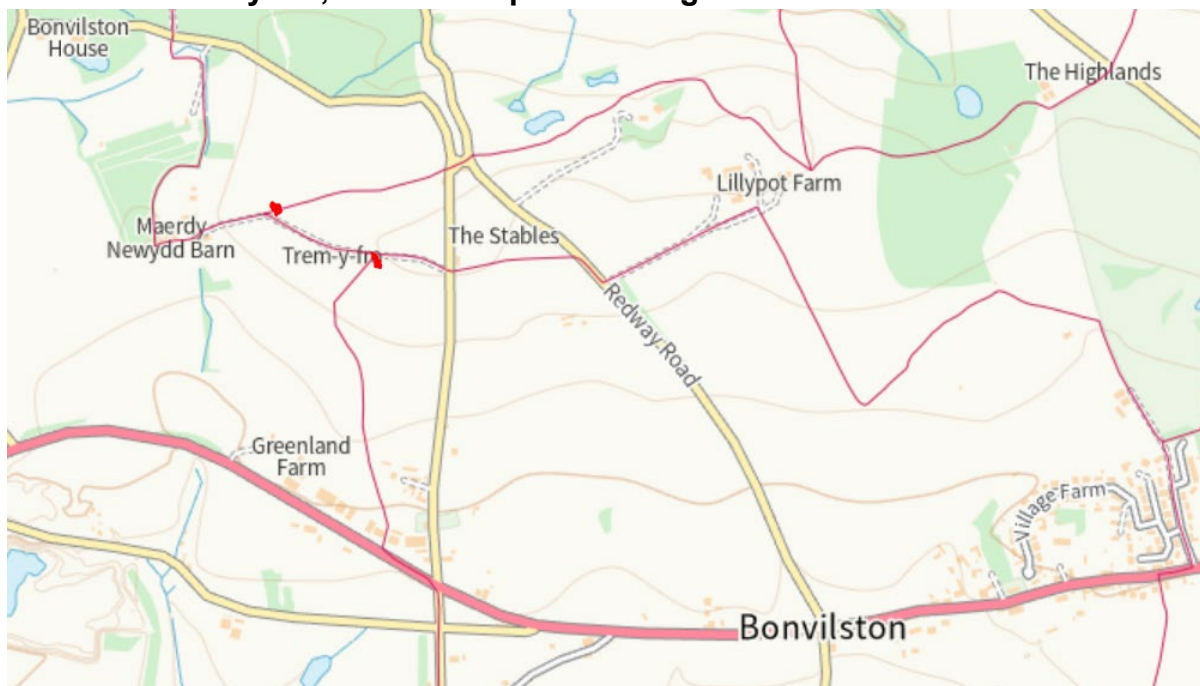
Section BB (with previously approved - 2016/00717/FUL)





Matters for Consideration

A Milton Keynes, accessible pedestrian gates at Bonvilston



Two stiles from the private road at Trem y Fro, on the promoted Bonvilston Circular Walk require replacement. There is agreement for these to be upgraded to accessible. It is proposed to purchase two one-way Milton Keynes pedestrian gates.



B Telephone box refurbishment

See project sheet on webpage.



Financial matters

Payments Received

£4,500 – grant towards paving around Memorial (Feb 20)

REMITTANCE ADVICE - HYSBYSIAD TALIAD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices Holton Road Barry CF63 4RU | Bro Morrannwg Swyddfeydd Dinesig Heol Holton Y Barri CF63 4RU | Creditor Reference/ Cyfeirnod Credydwydwr: 1005057 Date/ Dyddiad: 18-Feb-2025 |
| Please note that as part of the Council's Transparency Agenda, summary details of this payment may be displayed on the Council's Website | Sylwch y gallai manylion cryno am y taliad hwn gael eu cyhoeddi ar wefan y cyngor fel rhan o'n Hagenda Eglurder | |
| In case of query on this payment contact / Am ymholiadau pellach: 01446 709246 E-mail/E-bost: Creditors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk | | VAT Reg. No./ Rhif Cof. T.A.W: GB 666 4734 03 |

Bank Balance

Bank balance – £67,894.85 (current account), plus £30,000 (savings)

Payments to approve

- PR Accountancy (Gocardless) – Payroll – £20.00 (direct debit) – March
- Acrobat DC subscription – £19.97 (card) – March
- Enwau – Clerks email – £10.26 (card) – March
- Giff Gaff – phone and data – £6 (card) – March
- Scribe – accountancy package – £58.80 (direct debit) – March
- LGRC – Locum Clerk, January, 17 hours – £872.73 + VAT = £1,031.41
- Armstrong Masonry – removal of old paving, restoring original ground level and supplying and laying of new paving around Memorial. Supplying paving for picnic bench area and picnic bench assembly and installation. Engraving of the word 'Peace' in different languages x11. Removal of plaques on Memorial and repair of step and engraved names and filling of drilled holes – £14,990 + VAT = £17,988.00



Section 137 – Local Government Act 1972

137 Power of local authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised.

- (1) A local authority may, subject to the provisions of this section, incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants, but a local authority shall not, by virtue of this subsection, incur any expenditure—
- (a) for a purpose for which they are, either unconditionally or subject to any limitation or to the satisfaction of any condition, authorised or required to make any payment by or by virtue of any other enactment; nor
 - (b) unless the direct benefit accruing to their area or any part of it or to all or some of the inhabitants of their area will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.

As of January 27, 2025 there are 521 electors in St Nicholas and 392 electors in Bonvilston.

The Community Council in 2025-26 may spend £11.10 per elector on projects for which it doesn't have a specific power and on grants. This works out at a total of **£10,134.30**

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives Town, Parish & Community Councils in England & Wales the ability to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power. It's essentially a "power of last resort" and allows Councils to spend money on projects they believe will benefit some or all of their residents.

The amount of money that can be spent under Section 137 is capped and is usually set annually in line with inflation. This means Councils cannot endlessly spend under this provision; they have to be judicious about its use.

The S137 provision has been used to equip Community Payback to undertake work within St Nicholas and Bonvilston. The council has also used it for the Forces Fitness Day at the Amelia Trust Farm and to support Value in the Vale and to provide Honorariums to local residents. Previously, a £400 grant was made to contribute to the cost of grass cutting at St Mary's Church and St Nicholas Church.

The Council must also ensure that the direct benefit to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. For example, spending £8,000 of the Council's allowance under Section 137, for the benefit of two people, is unlikely to be of equal benefit to the expenditure incurred. Councils must therefore exercise care when considering amounts of proposed expenditure under Section 137.





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Clerks of Community and Town Councils,
Directors of Finance,
County and County Borough Councils

4 November 2024

Dear Clerk,

**Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 -
Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2025-26**

This is to notify you that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2025-26 is £11.10

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2025-26 will be £11.10 per elector.

For the financial year 2025-26, the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) is calculated by applying the formula set out in Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. The Retail Prices Index increased by 2.68% between September 2023 and September 2024. This means that, by application of the formula, the appropriate sum for the financial year 2025-26 increases from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector.

For clarity, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 includes provision which enables 'eligible community councils' to exercise the General Power of Competence. The power for Community and Town Councils to exercise the General Power of Competence came into force on 5 May 2022.

Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru
Cathays Park / Parc Cathays,
Cardiff / Caerdydd. CF10 3NQ





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The relevant **statutory guidance for community and town councils** explains the interaction between the two powers (i.e. the general power of competence and the power under s.137 of the 1972 Act). Community and town councils exercising the General Power of Competence are not subject to an expenditure limit, but other conditions apply. For all other community and town councils, the limit set out in this letter will apply.

Yours sincerely

Martin Bull
Local Government Finance Policy & Sustainability Division

Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru
Cathays Park / Parc Cathays,
Cardiff / Caerdydd. CF10 3NQ

Further guidance is on our website Meetings page.



Potential grants to St Nicholas Church

Any grant to St Nicholas Church is subject to legislation. New legislation that applies in England since December 2023 does not apply in Wales.

One Voice Wales have sent the Community Council advice note LO1-18 which can be found on our website Meetings page. The Community Council is further constrained by the Local Government Act 1972, with a strict cap applied for Section 137 payments and the terms of use.

It is proposed that prior to any large grant payment to a Church, the Community Council carries out a consultation with residents. There are currently two open Churches and a Chapel within the Community Wards of St Nicholas and Bonvilston and a closed Chapel. A further Church is likely to fall within the Community Council boundary from May 2027.



Budget

The budget was brought in draft form to the Community Council at its meeting of January 28, 2025.

Members raised the Christmas tree budget. It is proposed to retain a budget of £3,000 and undertake a consultation with residents in spring 2025 on the level of expenditure. This may reduce the amount spent, money transferred to reserves, or increase the amount with money drawn from reserves.

The proposed Budget remains unchanged from the Draft Budget.

For guidance, the following information is provided:

The Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils Limited has provided the follow guidance.

What is the purpose of a local council budget?

The Practitioner's Guide says:

- It results in the authority setting the precept for the year
- It provides a basis for monitoring progress during the year by comparing actual spending and income against planned spending and income.
- The budget thus sets the legal limit of spending pre-authorized by the authority, as required by LGA 1972.

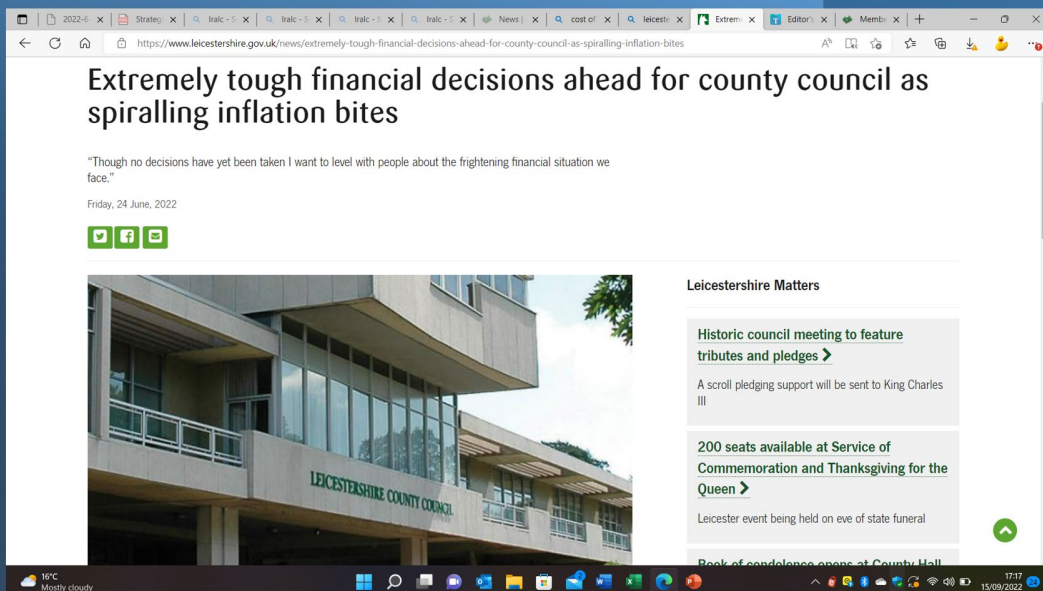
The Annual Governance Statement part of the AGAR states:

- The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.



So where are our councils at?

- Finances already taken a hit from Coronavirus.
- Depleted reserves (covid and inflation)
- Elections in May 2023 (cost and change of cllrs)
- Growth in staff resource for many councils.
- Role in supporting communities has already grown for many councils.
- Principal authorities likely to devolve more services and assets, but still not clear.
- Costs of many capital projects underway or in final planning stages have increased considerably



PT Penarth Times

Vale council proposes council tax increase of 6.9 to address funding gap

An increase in council tax of 6.9 percent is being considered to address the rising costs of social care and school funding.



BDN Barry and District News

Council faces £14m budget gap in 'extremely challenging financial position'

In a report which will be presented to council cabinet members on Thursday, November 28, Vale of Glamorgan Council said its expected budget gap for 2025-26 is...

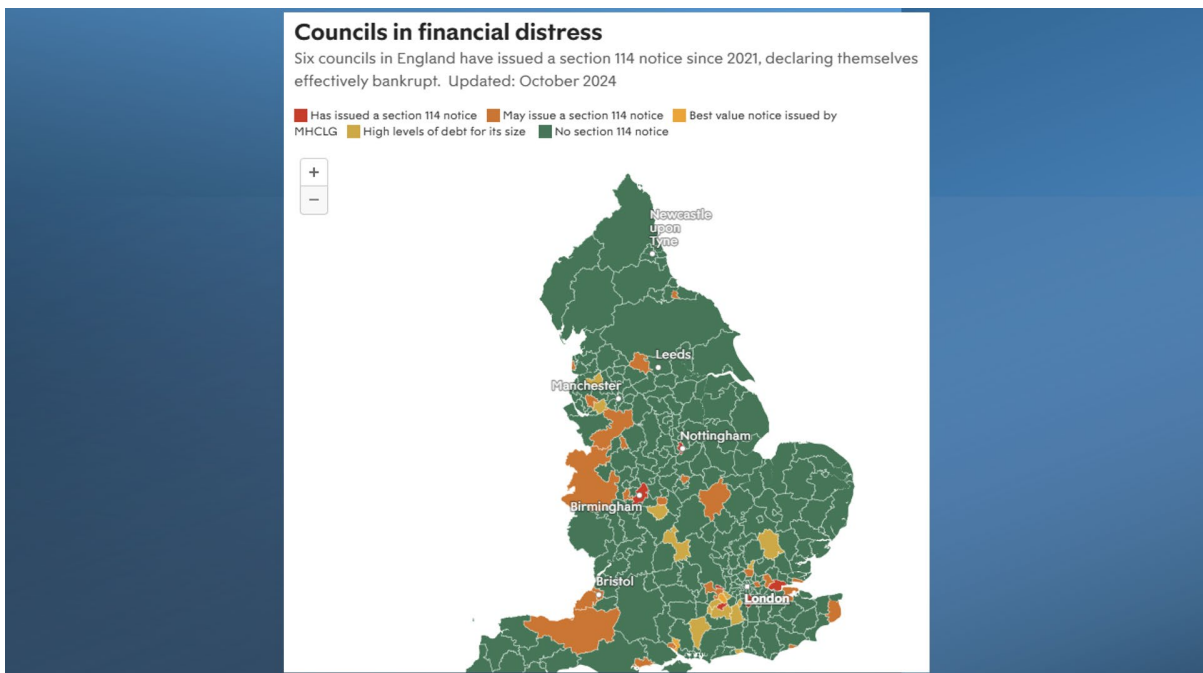


CO Caerphilly Observer

Welsh councils braced for multimillion pound 'black hole' in next year's budgets

Councils in Wales are bracing themselves for a multimillion pound "black hole" when they prepare their budgets for next year.

10 Oct 2024



Budget Setting Autumn 2024

- Forthcoming budget process will be challenging.
- ALL councils regardless of size need to take impact of previous inflation in to account.
- Three opposing options – increase precept, cut activity, or draw on reserves.
- Is what you do locally important? YES!
- World instability lasting longer than expected – longer term view needed.
- Is cutting back going to deliver any meaningful savings for people?

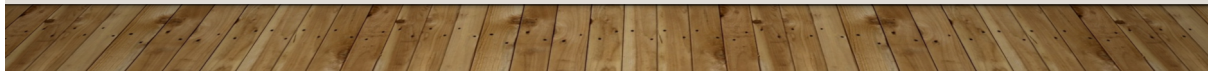
| Parish Name | 2021-22 ^(a) | | | 2022-23 | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Amount precepted on billing authority (£) ^(c) | Tax base for precept purposes ^(d) | Band D council tax (£) ^(e) | Amount precepted on billing authority (£) ^(c) | Tax base for precept purposes ^(d) | Band D council tax (£) ^(e) |
| Anstey | 309,361 | 2,627.3 | 117.75 | 320,284 | 2,666.7 | 120.11 |
| Ashby de la Zouch | 514,808 | 5,998.0 | 85.83 | 555,950 | 6,169.0 | 90.12 |
| Barwell | 258,430 | 2,735.1 | 94.49 | 259,271 | 2,743.3 | 94.51 |
| Birstall | 456,136 | 4,565.1 | 99.92 | 458,343 | 4,587.1 | 99.92 |
| Bottesford | 120,000 | 1,475.9 | 81.31 | 126,500 | 1,496.6 | 84.53 |
| Broughton Astley | 329,400 | 3,276.2 | 100.54 | 341,035 | 3,338.5 | 102.15 |
| Burbage | 427,044 | 6,005.4 | 71.11 | 430,230 | 6,050.2 | 71.11 |
| Countesthorpe | 391,217 | 2,587.4 | 151.20 | 392,359 | 2,595.0 | 151.20 |
| East Langton | 5,794 | 175.6 | 33.00 | 7,034 | 177.9 | 39.54 |
| Great Glen | 205,000 | 1,801.1 | 113.82 | 215,000 | 1,852.4 | 116.07 |
| Grimston | 8,400 | 128.0 | 65.63 | 8,820 | 131.3 | 67.16 |
| Hoton | 11,550 | 147.1 | 78.52 | 12,127 | 146.2 | 82.95 |
| Long Whatton and Diseworth | 42,282 | 783.0 | 54.00 | 50,000 | 810.0 | 61.73 |
| Markfield | 138,693 | 1,684.0 | 82.36 | 143,132 | 1,707.7 | 83.82 |
| Peckleton | 34,627 | 478.0 | 72.44 | 38,000 | 473.2 | 80.30 |
| Sapcote | 106,959 | 1,177.3 | 90.85 | 113,554 | 1,201.9 | 94.48 |
| Scraptoft | 88,600 | 973.3 | 91.03 | 93,000 | 1,042.3 | 89.23 |
| Sileby | 225,248 | 2,766.0 | 81.43 | 239,585 | 2,835.2 | 84.50 |
| Stathern | 25,000 | 310.3 | 80.56 | 26,500 | 329.0 | 80.55 |
| Stoney Stanton | 113,580 | 1,478.6 | 76.82 | 124,375 | 1,471.3 | 84.53 |
| Thurmaston | 470,652 | 2,836.5 | 165.93 | 480,492 | 2,865.9 | 167.66 |
| Whitwick | 271,941 | 2,697.0 | 100.83 | 274,660 | 2,724.0 | 100.83 |

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have produced the following figures:



AVERAGE PARISH COUNCIL BAND D INCREASES

| Year | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total number of precepting parishes | 8,886 | 8,877 | 8,874 | 8,881 | 8,904 |
| Tax base (thousands) | 8,532.7 | 8,600.7 | 8,757.7 | 8,943.9 | 9,116.1 |
| Average parish precept per Band D (£) | 69.89 | 71.86 | 74.81 | 79.14 | 85.89 |
| Change (£) | 2.71 | 1.97 | 2.95 | 4.33 | 6.76 |
| Percentage change (%) | 4.0% | 2.8% | 4.1% | 5.8% | 8.5% |



Council Reserves

- General reserves carried by a parish or town council should be equal to between 3 to 12 months expenditure for the council.
- Contingency funds should be built into project budgets where possible, **take account of inflation and allow a contingency buffer where appropriate**
- External auditors allow unallocated reserves equal to twice your annual precept.
- May have separate interest bearing bank accounts to hold funds either for general reserves or ear-marked reserves for specific projects. Councils must follow the sector guidance for investments
- Many councils also hold an Election Reserve



Budget Explanations

Christmas

Members have indicated that whilst the trees are a very visual project of the Community Council and very popular, they wish to reduce the cost. In 2024, there were ten Christmas Trees. Donation might be sought to increase spend on Christmas Trees. It is proposed to carry out a consultation in spring 2025 to determine actual spend on Christmas trees for December 2025.

War Memorials

The cost of the Memorials to be combined with Remembrance

Remembrance + D Day

~~Increase to £1,000 for Remembrance due to additional wreaths and printing costs. £2,000 for celebration of D Day — same as for Coronation.~~

Remembrance + Memorials

This budget includes any cleaning of the three Memorials, wreaths, printing of wreath centres, and boards, purchase of street poppies, and employment of musicians.

Public Health

Contingency fund for defibrillators, associated consumables (pads, batteries) and other items.

Events

Coffee mornings cost about £120 for printing of leaflet and provision of drinks. Budget has been provided for five coffee mornings.

Events planned for VE80, Walk and Brass Band (Bonvilston), Walk and Band (St Nicolas) VJ80 and Community (family) Day at the Amelia Trust Farm (with pet petting and children's entertainer). Costs will include hire of toilets, chairs, tables and payment of musicians and entertainers.

It is proposed to purchase £2,500 of carnival games for the events and the official opening of St Nicholas CIW Primary School.

School Opening

£1,000 has been added for the official opening of the school. This might provide live music or an entertainer.



| | 25-25 proposal | 22-23 actual | 24-25 budget |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Civic and Democratic | | | |
| Councillor Remuneration | 4000 | 1,970 | 3,200 |
| Meeting Costs | 800 | 173.88 | 600 |
| Elections | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| | | | 4,300 |
| Administration | | | |
| Staffing | 12,500 | 15,765.35 | 9,500 |
| Office/Stationary/IT | 1500 | 1,090.32 | 1,700 |
| Subscription/memberships | 500 | 303.00 | 500 |
| Training | 1000 | 65.00 | 1,000 |
| Audit and accountancy | 1400 | 810.00 | 1,270 |
| Insurance | 500 | 391.29 | 500 |
| | | | 14,470 |
| Professional/Legal | 4000 | 5,645.43 | 8,000 |
| | | | |
| Community Services | | | |
| Publications / Newsletters | 600 | 0 | 600 |
| War Memorials | | 0 | 1,000 |
| Christmas | 3000 | 2,415.79 | 6,000 |
| Engagement & Place Plan | 6000 | 0 | 6,000 |
| Village Green + Planting | 4000 | 2,627.00 | 4,500 |
| Remembrance + D Day | 0 | 377.96 | 3,000 |
| Remembrance and Memorials | 2000 | | |
| Public Health | 1500 | n/a | 1,000 |
| Financial Assistance | 1500 | 1,800 | 1,500 |
| Community Projects | 25000 | 3,800.58 | 17,000 |
| Events | 11100 | | |
| School opening event | 1000 | | |
| Total | 82400 | | 67,770 |

Note: The budget is not the precept.



Reserves

50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires that billing and precepting authorities in England and Wales have regard to the level of reserves needed to meet estimated future expenditure when calculating their precept requirement. Under statute, the Community Council must maintain adequate financial reserves of 3 months / 25% of net revenue in order to meet the needs of the council. General reserves can be used as and when required for purposes determined and approved by the Council.

Whilst council commonly hold 12 months (100% of net revenue) in reserve, it is proposed to maintain 60-80% of conformed net revenue in reserve. Proposed grants may increase net revenue of the council by £50,000 or more, and this uncertainty needs to be considered.

It is forecast that the Community Council will have money of approximately £60,000 at March 31, 2025. It is therefore recommended to place all monies at March 31, 2025 into the reserves.

Precept

It is therefore recommended that a precept of **£82,400** is demanded from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This translates to a levy of £106.32 on a council tax bill.

