Little Horwood Parish Council Draft Budget 2027-28

The draft budget attached is for initial consideration & review. Final approval will be at the January meeting.

Over the past year spending and revenue for the Parish Council has been reasonably close to the agreed budget. Exceptions are:

- rental, as we have now agreed rent for the post office,
- the purchase of the new speed indicator device, the extra cost of which has been covered by the general reserve fund,
- IT & software as we have invested in making sure the Clerk has the tools available to complete their tasks efficiently.

The PC has continued its activities, such as the work done to keep our green spaces as an asset for the community over & above that allowed for by the devolved services payment. Some reserves such as green spaces and the tree safety reserve have been depleted and need rebuilding. I have suggested an amount towards a second speed indicator device with the aim of purchasing it the following year (2028-29). It is also necessary to build the General Reserve (contingency funds), which should be close to 12 months' expenditure for a small Parish (see Practitioners Guide 2026-27 section 5.33-5.37).

In the draft budget I have allowed approximately 4% increase for relevant costs, based on government predictions. The suggested precept figure is for a 10% increase, which is not unusual compared with other parishes across Buckinghamshire for the current year.

I have also attached the current Reserves report as any unused reserves will be carried over at year-end but do not show in the budget.

I do not expect to receive the Precept Calculator (based on Band D properties) until early December.

Hilary Kane

Clerk & RFO