



# HELSEBY PARISH COUNCIL

---

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**To: Members of the Finance Committee**

You are hereby summoned to attend a Finance Committee meeting of Helsby Parish Council on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025** at 7pm in the parish office at Helsby Community Sports Club for transaction of the undermentioned business.

The press and public are welcome to attend. Reports referred to in this agenda are available in advance on request from the Clerk. The Clerk shall record the meeting for the purpose of assisting in taking minutes, following which the recording will then be deleted.

Yours sincerely,

**Claire Jones, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

## AGENDA

1. Public Participation. A period of up to 10 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments.
2. To note any apologies for absence. Apologies should be submitted to the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting.
3. Declarations of Members' Interests. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests from members relevant to items under discussion at the meeting.
4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes. To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.
5. Clerk's report from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere in the agenda (for information only).
6. Review of Investment Programme as follows:
  - Co-Operative Bank – Business Select Account - **£632.90** as at 7 January 2025.
  - Nationwide Business Savings Instant Access Account **£80,000.00** as at 7 January 2025.

- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund **£80,000.00** as at 7 January 2025.
- Unity Instant Access Account **£101,191.97** as at 7 January 2025.

7. To receive the budget calculations for the ensuing fiscal year 2025/26 from the following committees:

	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u>
Environment	£30,797	<b>£24,427<sup>a</sup></b>
Parks, Cemetery & Allotments	£45,440	<b>£58,750<sup>b</sup></b>

Notes:

<sup>a</sup> Reduction in total budget – £1,000 reduction in Street Furniture (Code 230) and £8,000 reduction in Christmas Illuminations (Code 228) as less expenditure anticipated. Increases in Ho Ho Traffic Management by £965 (Code 225) and Christmas tree by £1,050 (Code 222) due to higher contract costs in 2025/26.

<sup>b</sup> Substantial increase in budget mainly due to higher contract costs in 2025/26. Additional funds allocated to ad-hoc work for general maintenance contract.

**A full breakdown of figures is included in the attached Budget Report (Justification of the Precept Request for the Financial Year 2025/26).**

8. To discuss the Finance Committee budget for the year 2024/25 and for the forthcoming fiscal year 2025/26 (see attached budget spreadsheet and Supporting Paper 1).
9. Review of Earmarked Reserves and Grants (see Supporting Paper 2).
10. To set the precept request for the approval of Full Council. The number of Band D equivalents after taking account of discounts and exemptions for 2024/25 is 2,171.8 (previous year was 2,096.8).

**Example 1: Requesting the same precept as in 2024/25**

In 2024/25, Helsby Parish Council requested a precept of £109,040. If you were to request the same precept for 2025/26, this would reduce the Band D precept charge by £-1.79 to £50.21. However, this would fall significantly short of our expenditure requirements.

**Example 2: Maintaining the same Band D precept charge as 2024/25**

The Band D precept charge for Helsby Parish Council in 2024/25 was £52. If you want this charge to be the same in 2025/26, you will need to request a precept of **£112,925**. Again, this would fall significantly short of our expenditure requirements.

**Example 3: Requesting a Band D precept charge of £57.21 in 2025/26**

This would equate to an increase for Band D equivalents of 10%. A budget for expenditure has been calculated as £171,797 in 2025/26 and receipts are predicted as £163,932. A £57.21 charge would equate to a precept request of **£124,250** (an increase of 13.9%). The remaining the shortfall of £7,865 could be covered by general reserves.

11. To consider any amendments to the Community Grant Policy, Credit Management Policy and Reserves Policy.
12. To consider any amendments to the asset register.
13. To consider allocating any remaining funding from Budget Code 261 (Community Projects) to a path edging project on the parish field, Sherwood Court and the children's play area.
14. To discuss any urgent matters requiring immediate attention – for info only.
15. Date of next meeting – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Email: [clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk) Phone: (01928) 726433

Core members of this committee are: Cllrs. O'Neill, Temple, Ellams and Nicklin.