

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Responsible Financial Officer's Report for 2025/2026

The Parish Council's receipts for the 2025/26 financial year amounted to £6,086 being £3,700 of precept monies and £2,386 of Latitude funds. The Latitude funds were used for donation of £250 to East of England Air Ambulance Service; £100 to Halesworth Museum; £500 to Blyford Church PCC and £500 to Sotherton Church PCC for repairs and community events and a donation of £750 to Brampton School for outdoor play equipment. We also funded £1,044 for a community event at Henham Barns.

In 2025/26 the Parish Council's total expenditure was £7,020 which was below budget set of £7,674.

There was an overbudget of £654, to cover the unknown annual increase in the national pay scales. Other items of expenditure have remained mainly within budget and set to reflect the ongoing rise in the cost of living.

At end of the 2025/26 financial year the Parish Council held cash at bank totaling £6,067 with £2,665 of this being restricted Latitude funds.

The Parish Council voted unanimously to request an increase in 2026/27 precept to £4,100 which would show as a 10.81% change in the 2026/27 Council Tax bills against the Parish element and equating to a charge of £49.53 for a Band D property. This rise would ensure that there are sufficient to meet current and future costs to run the Parish Council.

The 2026/27 budget for spend was set at £5,646. An appropriate General Reserve of £1,824 against ongoing and reasonably foreseeable additional expenses, plus contingency. Restricted reserves are held for Latitude monies of £2,691 to be used for the benefit of the community.

Ann Donnachie
Responsible Financial Officer, May 2025