



Datchet Parish Council

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Budget and Precept for 2026/27

Dear Resident,

At the Council meeting on Monday 12 January 2026, Datchet Parish Council agreed a precept increase from £264,787 to **£361,821** for the 2026/27 financial year.

How Will This Affect You?

For a typical Band D property, the annual cost will be £158.66, which is £3.06 per week. This represents an increase of £0.82 per week compared with 2025/26.

Last Year's Precept and Council Tax (2025/26)

For the 2025/26 financial year, Datchet Parish Council set a precept of £264,787, based on a tax base of 2,272 Band D properties. This resulted in a Band D Council Tax charge of £116.37 per year, or £2.24 per week.

As your Parish Council, we remain committed to maintaining the services and amenities that make Datchet a wonderful place to live. We would like to take this opportunity to explain the reasons for this year's increase.

Overall, costs have continued to rise, considerably over the past year, impacting multiple areas of the Council's operations. This includes higher prices for services, materials, utilities, and the professional support required to carry out the Council's responsibilities.

1. Legal and Professional Costs

Adverse Possession Claim

The Council is defending an adverse possession claim relating to land owned by RBWM but leased to DPC.

- £35,000 has been spent to date.
- A further £40,000 is estimated to conclude the case.
- RBWM, despite being the landowner, has declined to support the Parish Council or its legal advice. This has directly increased legal costs as the Parish Council protects its lease obligations.

Datchet Recreation Centre Charitable Trust (DRCCT)

The Council has had to instruct solicitors following legal action brought by two residents who assert that they are the sole trustees of the charity — a position the Parish Council disputes.

AL39 Proposed Residential Development

Additional professional, technical, and legal fees have been incurred to ensure the Council can properly assess the implications of the proposed AL39 development and represent residents' interests.

These matters must be addressed to safeguard Datchet's community assets, protect residents' interests, and ensure the Council continues to meet its legal, technical, and governance responsibilities as a public body.

2. Increased Staffing Costs

An independent assessment confirmed that the Council is understaffed for its size and workload. Following the resignation of the part-time Administrative Assistant, a full-time Deputy Clerk has been appointed to ensure adequate capacity and continuity of service.

What Is the Precept Spent On?

Your precept directly contributes to maintaining the following services:

- **Public Spaces & Parks:** Maintenance of Datchet Recreation Ground, Willowfields, Recreation Ground Ditch, Datchet Riverside, Village Greens, and the Community Orchard.
- **Buildings:** Maintenance and upkeep of properties that are the responsibility of Datchet Parish Council, including providing space for Datchet Library, The Bridge Café, Datchet Health Centre and other community services.
- **Play Areas & Sports Facilities:** Ensuring the safety and upkeep of play areas, tennis courts, and outdoor fitness equipment.
- **Community Events:** Supporting events such as Christmas on the Green, Santa's Sleigh Ride, and other village celebrations.
- **Public Amenities:** Including seating, litter bins, and maintenance of public footpaths and ditches.
- **Cemetery Maintenance:** Ensuring a respectful and well-maintained space for loved ones.
- **Christmas Tree, Village Flowers, and Christmas Street Lights:** Enhancing the community environment.
- **Local Safety Measures:** Such as defibrillators, CCTV, and flood prevention work.
- **Staffing:** Ensuring that skilled professionals are employed to carry out the work, including the Clerk/RFO, Deputy Clerk, Finance Officer, Cemetery Warden, and Groundsmen.

Public Consultation and Decision-Making Process

To ensure transparency and allow for public input, Finance Committee meetings were held on 7th November 2025 and 24th November 2025. These meetings were open to the public, giving residents the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. The Finance Committee presented its recommendations to Full Council on 8th December 2025. This item was deferred to the January 2026 meeting to allow councillors additional time to review the supporting documents.

Prior to the public meetings, internal budget-planning sessions were held between Lead Members, the Finance Committee, the Clerk, and the Finance Officer. These sessions reviewed the current year's budget, projected year-end expenditure, and proposed projects and spending requirements for 2026/27.

All meeting dates are published one week before the meeting on the four noticeboards in the village, the Datchet Parish Council website, and more recently on the DPC Facebook page.

Historical Precept Figures

Below is a summary of precept figures in previous years:

Year	Band D	Total Precept
2013/2014	£59.77	£126,651.00
2014/2015	£83.90	£176,650.00
2015/2016	£82.50	£176,650.00
2016/2017	£81.02	£176,650.00
2017/2018	£76.50	£167,817.50
2018/2019	£71.94	£157,817.50
2019/2020	£63.93	£142,817.50
2020/2021	£63.70	£142,817.50
2021/2022	£63.70	£144,272.00
2022/2023	£63.70	£144,531.00
2023/2024	£63.52	£144,531.00
2024/2025	£63.60	£144,531.00
2025/2026	£116.37	£264,787.00

Prior to last year, the Parish Council had not raised the precept since the 2014/2015 financial year. In fact, over the years, the precept was gradually reduced and had remained at £144,531 until 2024/2025.

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

Every year, an internal and external audit are carried out to ensure the financial integrity and transparency of the Parish Council's operations. The internal audit is conducted by an independent auditor to review financial records and procedures, while the external audit is performed by an external body to provide an objective assessment of our financial standing and compliance with regulations.

Datchet Parish Council is committed to financial transparency. Our budget is available for residents to review. We welcome any questions you may have. We also encourage residents to attend Parish Council meetings where financial matters are discussed in detail.

We appreciate your understanding and support in maintaining the services and community spirit that make Datchet a great place to live. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council office.

Please note: Parish Council meetings are held every second Monday of the month, and the agendas for these meetings will be available on the website and parish noticeboards.

FINAL BUDGET SUMMARY 2026/2027 - APPROVED 12.01.2026

MINUTE REFERENCE 25/225C

Date: 24.11.25 Version 3

DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSAL 2026/2027

Income									
Cost Centre		2025/2026 Budget	2025/2026 to 17.11.25	2025/2026 Projected End	Year	2025/2026 EMR	2026/2027 Budget	C/F	Comments / Explanations
100	PRECEPT	264,787	264,787	264,787			0		
100	ADMIN	8,900	5,877	9,196			9,000		Bank Interest / Miscellaneous Income / CLLA Dividend
200	GROUNDS	1,250	1,444	1,450			1,500		Refund of hanging baskets
300	CEMETERY	23,000	22,922	27,500			22,500		Sale of Plots and Interments
400	PROPERTIES	69,100	37,251	71,210			69,050		Rental Income
TOTAL INCOME		367,037	332,281	374,143		0	102,050		

Day to day Expenditure									
Cost Centre		2025/2026 Budget	2025/2026 to 17.11.24	2025/2026 Projected End	Year	2025/2026 EMR	2026/2027 Budget	2026/2027 EMR	Comments / Explanations
100	ADMIN	151,680	101,827	161,966		1,000	189,878	1,000	Staff Salaries /Pension /Insurance / Subscription - Election EMR
200	GROUNDS	107,180	51,793	94,505		0	98,800	0	Ground Contracts /Xmas Lights and Tree
300	CEMETERY	41,310	21,978	40,705		3,000	28,170	0	Cemetery upkeep and Memorial Inspections
400	PROPERTIES	28,900	22,562	41,660		0	37,111	0	
TOTAL DAY TO DAY EXPENDITURE		329,070	198,160	338,836		4,000	353,959	1,000	

Projects Expenditure

Cost Centre		2025/2026 Budget	2025/2026 to 17.11.24	2025/2026 Projected End	Year	2025/2026 EMR	2026/2027 Budget	2026/2027 EMR	Comments / Explanations	
500	ADMIN	0	0	0		0	29,020		9,980	See paper DPC PROJECTS LIST 2026-2027 for more details
501	GROUNDS	138,220	17,073	33,080		69,490	32,700	67,600	24,760	
502	CEMETERY	18,500	6,990	19,845		0	12,000	0	0	
503	PROPERTIES	4,800	0	0		0	22,000	0	0	
700	Neighbourhood Plan									
800	EVENTS	8,000	919	3,920		0	6,250	0	0	
801	FLOODING						2,900			
802	HIGHWAYS						6,400			
803	PLANNING						5,000			
TOTAL PROJECTS EXPENDITURE		169,520	24,982	56,845		69,490	116,270	67,600	34,740	
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE		498,590	223,142	395,681		73,490	470,229	68,600	34,740	

GF Carried Forward from 24/25

61,030

41,098

Projected general fund carry forward from 25/26

Projected 25/26 Income

374,143

102,050

Draft Budget Income - Not including Precept

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME

435,173

143,148

TOTAL DRAFT BUDGET INCOME

Projected Expenditure Carry Forward Costs

395,681

470,229

Draft Budget Expenditure

34,740

Carry Forward Costs

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURE

395,681

504,969

TOTAL DRAFT BUDGET EXPENDITURE

Income less

39,492

-361,821

Draft Budget Income less budget Expenditure

Expenditure

Movement from EMR
**Projected carry Forward
from 25/26**

1,606
41,098

0
-361,821

Movement from EMR
Precept required

PROJECTS 2026-2027

Admin Projects	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
LAMP Legal Fees	£27,020.00	£9,980.00	Project Approved by Council
DRCCT Legal Fees	£2,000.00		
Total	£29,020.00		

Cemetery Projects	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
Cemetery Path Construction	£0.00	Project moved to 2027-28	Project Approved by Council (EMR)
Mortuary Store Refurb	£10,000.00	£0.00	Project Approved by Council
CCTV Phase 2	£1,000.00	£0.00	Project Approved by Council (EMR)
Remembrance Garden	£1,000.00	£0.00	Project Approved by Council - Subject to follow up quotes (EMR)
Total	£12,000.00		

Properties Projects	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
24 The Green Refurb	£20,000.00	£0.00	Must do project - Needs Approval by council once quotes have been received
Register unregistered land /buildings	£1,000.00	£0.00	A required but non-urgent admin task; extra funds are needed, so an EMR is allocated.
Properties Maintenance Fund	£1,000.00	£0.00	Reserve fund for the long-term preservation and care of the properties. (EMR)
Total	£22,000.00		

Grounds Projects	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
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Riverside Refurb	£0.00	£6,000.00	This is a required project that was approved during the last budget-setting cycle.
Typodra Enhancements	£0.00	£5,760.00	Reserve fund for ongoing care and improvement of the Rec's play areas (Playground Renewal EMR)
Rec Ditch Phase 1 (EMR)	£0.00	£11,150.00	Ditch Pump out (EMR)
Rec Ditch Phase 2 (EMR)	£0.00	£56,450.00	Ditch Culvert (EMR)
Christmas Lights	£0.00	£3,000.00	Expansion of the Christmas Street Lights to include other parts of the village
Recreation Ground Path	£5,000.00	£10,000.00	Renewal of the recreation ground path (EMR)
Parish Yard Toilet	£7,000.00	£0.00	Must do project in accordance with Workplace Health and Safety regulations
LAMP Clean Up	£2,000.00	£0.00	Required work to preserve and maintain the land
Play and Tennis Fencing Repair	£3,000.00	£0.00	Required work to preserve and maintain the land
Tree Planting and Renaturing Rec	£5,000.00	£0.00	Project approved by council
Bio Diversity /Eco Survey	£2,500.00	£0.00	Project needs to be approved by council once quotes are rcvd
Rec Gate Engineering	£2,000.00	£0.00	Required work for rec access and security
Cob Close Fencing	£3,200.00	£0.00	Required work to preserve and maintain the land - Needs approval from council once quotes are rcvd
Hydrologist /Expert - Ditch /Water	£3,000.00	£0.00	Project needs to be approved by council once quotes are rcvd
Total	£32,700.00		

Events	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
Xmas on the Green	£3,000.00	£0.00	Event runs every year
Ellis Journey	£2,000.00	£0.00	Event is returning 2026-27
Events General Promotion	£1,000.00	£0.00	
Datchet Fete	£250.00	£0.00	Event runs every year
Total	£6,250.00		

FLOODING	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-	Notes
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		2026	
Flooding Advisory Documents	£400.00		
Cont. Rail Tunnel Blocking PRJ	£500.00		
Hire Flood Mobile Display	£2,000.00		
Total	£2,900.00		

HIGHWAYS	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
Public Consultation Jan 26	£200.00		
Public Consultation Mar 26	£200.00		
Traffic Survey	£2,000.00		
Low Traffic Solution	£4,000.00		
Total	£6,400.00		

PLANNING	2026-27	C/F or EMR from 2025-2026	Notes
AL39 Legal and Technical Fees	£5,000.00		For Expert and Legal Advice
Total	£5,000.00		