



Benson Parish Council
 Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ
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2025/26

Benson Parish Council has requested a precept of £348,556 in order to maintain the services and facilities it provides for the Parish. This represents an increase of £4.46 per year for a band D property.

The full budget breakdown and precept calculation is as follows

	2024/25 Budgeted Running Costs £	2025/26 Budgeted Running Costs £	Income £
Administration	265703	279708	10900
Halls	88360	94110	74000*
Village	15000	14250	2300
Green Spaces and Play Areas	25100	26700	3170
Continuing Costs and non- reclaimable VAT	17750	17750	
	411913	432518	90370
Contribution to allocated projects fund	61269	39833	
	473182	472351	
Funds from reserves	69325	33425	
Precept = expenditure minus income minus funds from reserves	322487	348556	

*Lower than previously due to closure of the Youth Hall

Like many organisations, the increase in NI and the ever increasing costs of utilities have affected our budget setting but with a good income now coming from our halls, we have been confident in putting together an exciting programme of projects, events and support for our community. The following are some of the projects and services the Council plan to deliver in the 2025/26 financial year including those funded by CIL funds

Item	Description	Current Fund £
Rivermead	Regeneration and paddling pool replacement	CIL
Parish Hall	Solar panels	CIL/ grants
Parish Hall	Painting the main hall	£14000
Youth Hall	Purchase site and create mixed community use	CIL
St Helens Play Area	New fencing	12000
Cuckoo Pen	Clear and create new community space	CIL/ grants
Skate park	Fence and install bins and benches	16250
Village Centre	New planters	3500
Bus shelters	Refurb	3500
Community Events	80 th Anniversary of VE Day, Christmas event	3000

The progress in our major CIL projects has been steady – many are complex, involving multiple agencies, but progress is being made behind the scenes by the working groups and results should be visible soon.

Other large projects have now been delivered such as the Parish Hall overflow carpark resurfacing, replacement of the Millbrook Mead walkway, some new planters for the village centre and installation of cycle racks and an AED at the Community Hall. The regeneration of the Pavilion is still being actively planned and negotiations to buy the Youth Hall site for a mixed community use are progressing.

Other projects delivered during 2024/25 include

- Repairing the zip wire, reinstating the basketball hoop and replacing swing seats at St Helens play area
- Installation of 3 speed indicator devices and establishing a Speed Watch group to analyse the data
- Purchase of a van to facilitate maintenance of green spaces around the village
- Creation of an Allotment Society
- Setting up a programme of Councillor surgeries
- Awarded around £10700 in grants to village organisations including £4k to the library, £2000 to the Friends of Benson School for play equipment, and £940 to the Bowls club for new equipment
- Organising and funding the decoration of the village centre for Christmas
- Public consultation on options for the future of the Cuckoo Pen green space
- Organising free mulch and compost deliveries for allotment holders

- Supplying over 8000 free dog waste bags from dispensers around the village
- Maintenance programme on Parish Council owned trees
- Consulting the community on the use of the Public Art Fund

Benson Parish Council is committed to continue to deliver the projects, facilities and services the residents and visitors to the village expect and use every effort in the budgeting process to achieve this. If you have any views, questions or feedback then please do get in contact

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Anna Field
Responsible Finance Officer March 2025