

Allendale Parish Council has prepared a draft budget to support the calculation of the precept for the year April 2024 – March 2025. This precept is added on to the council tax for all residential properties in the parish.

The parish council is proposing an increase of 4.9% in the parish precept for the next year. This increase will allow the parish council to complete some major works during the year, while still keeping a sensible reserve in hand.

The budget and the parish precept will be finalised at the January meeting of the parish council, as the figures have to be provided to Northumberland County Council in January. Feedback can be made in writing to the clerk, or to parish councillors, or by attending the January meeting.

Item	Budget 2023-24	Actual to Nov 23	Forecast to Mar 24	Budget 2024-25	Notes
<b>Administration</b>					
Audit	300.00	315.00	315.00	325.00	
Hall hire	400.00	330.00	405.00	400.00	
Insurance	2,000.00	1,700.06	1,700.06	2,000.00	
Printing, stationery and postage	100.00			100.00	
Subscription fees	410.00	411.92	411.92	420.00	Association memberships
Training	200.00			200.00	
Website subscription	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	
Accounting system & IT subscriptions	300.00	288.00	288.00	300.00	
<b>Cemetery</b>					
General maintenance		2,496.28	2,496.28	500.00	£500 for treework
Cemetery grass cutting	2,200.00	2,184.00	2,184.00	2,500.00	
Ground maintenance	500.00		2,340.00	500.00	
Chapel maintenance	1,000.00	49.98	100.00	100.00	
<b>Donations - S137</b>	5,000.00	2,519.50	5,000.00	5,000.00	
<b>Machinery</b>					
Machinery maintenance	900.00	218.72	300.00	500.00	
Mower hire purchase	100.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	

Petrol & oil	1,000.00	967.94	967.94	1,000.00
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**Play areas**

Allenfields	200.00	75.00	75.00	200.00
Denefields	200.00	75.00	75.00	200.00

**Staff Costs**

Clerk salary, tax and pension	13,000.00	7,161.06	12,300.00	12,300.00
Payroll services	1,000.00	250.00	500.00	500.00

**Street furniture**

Benches				400.00	replacement bench
Waste bins	300.00	15.00	300.00	300.00	
Bench restoration & maintenance	1,190.00	1,295.00	1,295.00	600.00	
Planters	100.00			100.00	

**Villages**

Villages grass cutting	4,500.00	3,696.00	3,696.00	4,500.00	
Allenheads Trust	550.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	contribution to Heritage Centre grounds
Recreation Ground	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	contribution to Recreation Ground
Catton WI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	for planter management in Catton
Plants, trees and shrubs	1,000.00	719.59	719.59	1,000.00	Includes tree surgery
Tree inspection			100.00	100.00	twice yearly tree safety check
Litter picking	1,200.00	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Village tidying	200.00	744.50	744.50	500.00	
Monuments maintenance	3,000.00	2,192.00	2,192.00	2,000.00	Isaac's Well repair in 2024
Vehicle activated speed signs	500.00	564.50	564.50	600.00	annual maintenance
Public toilet charges	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	pay county for winter opening
Provide Bus Shelters			6,500.00	6,500.00	
Re-render Hearse House				1,000.00	
Resurface Triangle in Market Square				15,620.00	

<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>43,975.00</b>	<b>30,084.05</b>	<b>49,984.79</b>	<b>64,680.00</b>
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### Income Categories

Bank Interest		896.42	1200.00	1500.00	
Allotments Fees	25.00		25.00	25.00	
Cemetery Fees		4100.00	4100.00		Difficult to predict cemetery fees
Grasscutting Costs Recovery	1200.00		1200.00	1200.00	
Precept	41000.00	41000.00	41000.00	43000.00	
Sundry		100.00	100.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>42225.00</b>	<b>46096.42</b>	<b>47625.00</b>	<b>45725.00</b>	

	<b>B/f April 2024</b>	<b>Change in year</b>	<b>C/f March 2025</b>	
<b>Earmarked reserves</b>				
Elections	500.00		500.00	
Market Square	4,000.00	-4,000.00		
Cemetery Shed	5,000.00		5,000.00	
Allotments creation	3,500.00	3,500.00	7,000.00	
Headstone survey		500.00	500.00	
Mower purchase		2,500.00	2,500.00	
Admin reserve IT equipment	200.00	200.00	400.00	
Denefields play area	16,171.00	-75.00	16,096.00	provided by Denefields developer
<b>Total Earmarked reserves</b>	<b>29,371.00</b>	<b>2,625.00</b>	<b>31,996.00</b>	
General reserve	44800.00		25845.00	operational reserves should be between 3 and 12 months operational costs

## 2023-24 (current year) Unbudgeted expenditure

**Cemetery Headstones Safety Check** – the Parish Council learned of a responsibility for headstone safety and commissioned a survey and the subsequent remedial work at a cost of £2446. The survey should be repeated every 5 years – the PC intends to repeat this every 4 years, which is the interval used by NCC for its cemeteries. Each year £500 will be added to a reserve to cover the cost.

**Cemetery Wall** – the cemetery wall facing the road was in poor condition and in danger of collapse. A 40m stretch required rebuilding. The labour and materials for this is expected to come to about £2340 payable in 23-24 (current year).

**Bus Shelter** – Depending on the option to be selected, the PC expects to spend £6500 – £8500 (depending on the selected model) on a bus shelter in Allendale Town in 23-24. We hope that a contribution will come from the County Councillor budget of £2000+ towards this.

**Tree Inspection** – for safety and liability reasons, the PC has started commissioning an annual tree inspection at the cemetery and twice yearly in Allendale Town, for the trees for which the PC is responsible.

## 2024-25 (next year) Projects and Cost Increases

**Cemetery Grasscutting** – Budget increased in anticipation of possible higher costs.

**Bus Shelter** – The Parish Council expects to install a bus shelter in Catton in 2024 – 25, at a cost of £6500 - £8500. We hope that a contribution will come from the county councillor budget.

**Re-render Hearse House** – a wall of the hearse house in Allendale Town market square needs re-rendering or otherwise making good. This building is managed by the Parish Council.

**Resurface triangle in the Market Square** – The Parish Council has accumulated reserves for this project, and expects to have the work done in 2024-2025.

## Future Reserves

**Mower purchase** – the Parish Council owns two aging ride-on mowers and is starting to accumulate a reserve in anticipation of replacing one or both of these when necessary.

**Election costs** – the PC may have to contribute to election costs in May 2025.

**Cemetery Shed** – additional storage may be required, especially as the chapel building is now available for use for ceremonies.

**Allotments creation** – the Parish Council is accumulating a reserve for creation of allotments, setting aside £3.5K a year for at least 3 years.