

GREENS NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

A guide to where some of the Parish Council's share of your Council Tax was used upto the March 3rd meeting in 2024-25. Still a few weeks to go to the end of the financial year.

Electricity for street lighting cost **£3245** twice as much as the previous year as the Council came to the end of three year contract which it had to renew and of course prices had increased

Staff costs (including tax, expenses account for **£25,500** The Council legally has to employ a Clerk and it uses her home as its office for which an annual sum is paid. Much cheaper than renting an office!

£2900 was spent in maintaining the Jubilee Garden which is leased from West Northants Council on a 99 year lease.

Council meetings have to be held in a public place and hire of the CCA room costs **£130**

Various areas of the village need mowing and this costs in the order of **£5400** in the year, £1500 more than the previous year, for which it gets a small annual grant from WNC.

The Council now supports four Community Defibrillators for the benefit of the village which are located at Ducote, the Community Centre, on the wall of the Post Office and in the telephone box on High Street. These come at no cost to the village beyond replacement of the pads as needed.

During the year the Council gave grants on request of **£3500** to the Community Centre, St Bartholomews Church and the British Legion

£1325 was paid on the Allotments Site for water and rent charges water but the Allotments are self funded and all of this was paid back by GNAGS .

£900 covers subscriptions to Local Gov. bodies and organisations and includes what was spent on training Councillors and the Clerk. This is how the Council keeps up to date with the ever-changing rules and Acts of Parliament by which it is governed. The Council cannot do just what it wants when it wants!

£1000 was the sum charged by the Council's Internal and External Auditors both. The Council has to comply with audit regulations and has no choice of provider.

On the basis of the final payment on the Community Centre the Council has been able to reduce its Precept demand for next year by £10,000 which should show up on your Council Tax demand for 2025-26



This gives an overview of some of the money spent by the Parish Council in a year for the benefit of the village and it is always open to comment and suggestions from residents.

Residents are always welcomed to the monthly PC meetings generally on the first Monday of each month.

Meetings are held in Meeting Room 2 at the

Community Centre at 7.30pm.

There is always a Public Voice item on the Agenda

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

Village handyman works cost **£1500** for general maintenance that helps to keep the village looking tidy

Some of the Miscellaneous costs cover **£400** for the Accounts package, new gateway signs in the village and Ducote cost **£5000** a new grit bin filled and others topped up **£940**, village Christmas trees **£624**, installing vehicle activated signs **£3600** and a grant of **£5000** to Save Towcester Now towards the DHL Appeal costs

The village website and community engagement costs **£3000** and bank charges were **£140**. These costs cannot be avoided and aid the efficient running of the Council.

A major cost to the village over the last 20 plus years has been the annual **£27256** loan repayments of the Community Centre and the final payment on this was made in September 24 . A lot of money but the village would have been a much poorer place to live without this well maintained and run village facility.

Annual Insurance cover amounts to **£1735**. Insurance is a statutory requirement placed on every Council. Each year we compare quotes to get the best value for money just as you would do for your home or car insurance.

Costs for the Playing Field, a great asset to the village, were **£880** for mowing and tree and hedge work, **£630** for regular litter picking. There is an additional charge from WNC for business waste collection of **£572**

Another valuable resource to the village is the Pocket Park run by a small group of volunteers who are always looking for more help cost the village **£500** this year, half the cost of the previous year. Might you be able to join the volunteer group?

AND FINALLY – the sting in the tail!

Dog waste bin maintenance costs **£3000** a year and each new dog bin installed costs **£300**. If dog owners were more vigilant and took home their dog waste this sum could be greatly reduced and used for something more attractive. Please use the bins provided.

The Fireworks event run by the Council this year was again **self funding** and cost you just your support!!

I hope this help villagers to understand how the Parish Council makes its decisions on how much to tell WNC its needs for the Precept for the coming financial year. This makes up the PC element of your Council Tax bill and how it planned to spend that money to meet the needs of the village. If you have any further questions you can make contact with me as the Responsible Financial Officer and I will endeavour to answer your questions.

March 2025

Linda Paice,
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