



Grimley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council

**Monday 23rd February 2026, 7.30pm,
Peace Hall, Sinton Green**

Present (# indicates absent with apologies, ## indicate absent without apologies):

Parish Councillors: Adam Collett (Chair), Robin Woodhouse (Deputy). Pam Ayers, Matt Boyle #, Georgie Moore #, Geoff Probert, Simon Russell, Andy Sinclair, Sue Wilson.

Parish Clerk, Proper Officer & Responsible Financial Officer Lisa Stevens.

District Councillor for Malvern Hills Dean Clarke.

County Councillor for Worcestershire Mel Fordington #.

Residents: 0.

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

14/26 Welcome and information provided at the beginning of each meeting

- a) **Points of order** (nil).
- b) **Adjustments to facilitate public participation** (nil).
- c) **Declarations of interest**
 - Cllr Sinclair declared an interest as a newly co-opted member of the Grimley Peace Hall Committee.
 - **Resolved. Motion** to debate. Specifically to accept the declaration of interest and approve member taking part in future debate on all matters relating to the Peace Hall at full parish council. Prps: PA. Scnd: GP. Duly **approved**.
 - Motion to vote – no motion requested by Cllr Sinclair.
 - The Clerk was **instructed** to enter this on the register of declarations held by the parish council.
- d) **Apologies**/reasons for absence from Cllrs as listed above. No resolution.
- e) The Chair noted **apologies in advance** from Cllr Sinclair and Cllr Russell for 23rd March 2026

15/26 Minutes of a previous meeting 26th January 2026. One amendment was received in relation to Monkwood Green and parish council resolution of approval of resident volunteer actions. The minutes will be amended and approved at the next meeting.

16/26 Public Open Forum

- a) Congratulations were pass by all to Cllr Ayers that in recognition and gratitude for 23 years service to the Parish Council and for the many more to our community, she had been nominated and accepted to attend His Majesty The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

17/26 To receive the report of the County Councillor – Mel Fordington

- a) The CCllr had asked parish councillors to pass on the following message. *“Please ask residents to report any road, gully, pothole, drainage, or anything else on the Worcestershire County Council website. Residents are then welcome to forward the references to me so I can keep a close monitor on them”.*
- b) The Clerk was **instructed** to pass details of correspondence from residents Dark Lane ref verge erosion and bollard replacement. Highways had already indicated that if the CCllr accepts the necessity of proposals then they would be added to the next available budget at County Hall.
- c) The Clerk was **instructed** to pass details of correspondence from a resident reference parking issues associated with primary school drop-off and pick-up, including a request for formal parking restrictions and support in raising this as a local safety issue and request an assessment by Highways. Note post meeting: Highways are considering white H bar

markings on the road if the access is for multiple properties. Parish Council has raised the issue of the lengthened school day, with breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs.

18/26 To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke

- MHDC accounts are in the process of being qualified and independently examined, as part of the general scrutiny undergone by all such councils.

19/26 Planning and Consultations

- a) **Standing Item: Planning Applications.** To consider and arrange an extra ordinary parish council meeting for applications received after date of publication of this agenda: nil.
- b) **Consultation: Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).** Cllrs considered CPRE concerns that the new policy will erase safeguards for ‘valued landscapes’ and the everyday countryside outside of officially protected areas. **Resolved. Motion** to approve response as per Appendix 4. Prps: SR. Scnd: SW. Duly **approved.**
- c) **Consultation: Government’s consultation on local government reorganisation in Worcestershire.**
 - *Either*.i. Motion to support and respond in favour of Transforming Worcestershire (supported by Worcester City, Bromsgrove District, Redditch Borough, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District councils) proposes to create two unitary councils. One authority would serve Worcester, Malvern Hills and Wychavon – another would cover Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest.
 - *Or*. ii. Motion to support and respond in favour of One Worcestershire – Proposal for a single unitary council for Worcestershire, submitted by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council. This would bring all services under one authority, replacing the county and district councils.
 - Nb. Previous decision by Full Council was to support a two unitary approach, but new information has been made available. Consultation deadline: 26th March.
 - Councillors made no decision and **agreed** to move this matter to the March agenda.
- d) **Consultation: Have your say on Community Infrastructure Charges/Levy (CIL).** See Appendix 5. For context, this parish council received £745 in 2024 as a result of development in Grimley Village – money which has been earmarked towards bus shelter repairs. DCllr Clarke noted that MHDC has resolved to support the proposals. **Resolved. Motion** to support all proposals within the consultation. Prps: SW. Scnd: PA. Duly **approved.**
- e) **Devolution** update as required (standing item). Holt/Grimley/Hallow/Wichenford Devolution Cluster Meetings. Next dates proposed Monday 23 March or Thursday 26 March. Cllr Collett and Cllr Probert to attend if the date is the 26 March. Clerk to liaise. It was noted that WCALC have been invited to attend the next Cluster meeting and that eight councils are now involved.

20/26 Commons and Village Greens

i. Monkwood Green

- a) **Monkwood Green Common Inspection Report.** To consider recommendations by C.B. Moved from the January agenda. To be moved to the March agenda to allow Cllrs more time to consider. Cllr Wilson noted that Resident R has been delayed on clearing the brambles and bracken from vicinity of the bus shelter due to the wet weather and that all volunteers from the Green are fingers crossed for an improvement in the weather very soon. Cllrs gave thanks to all volunteers for their work on the Common.
- b) **Monkwood Green draft 5 year plan 2026 – 2030.** To consider recommendations. Moved from the January agenda. To be moved to the March agenda to allow Cllrs more time to consider.

20/26 continued

- c) **Monkwood Green lichen report.** To consider recommendations by C.B. The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has acknowledged the report with much praise and will disseminate to their specialist members. Cllrs **approved** that CB is at liberty to publish as he chooses. Cllr Wilson noted that CB also intends to produce a moss report for the Common in due course and this was welcomed by the parish councillors.
- d) **Access roads. Resolved. Motion** to give consent for residents to continue to repair their sections of the access roads as they require, subject to adherence to the parish council spec (contained within the Commons and Greens Management Policy, or available from the Clerk upon request) and to grade off the surfaces themselves. Prps: AS. Scnd: SR. Duly approved. This Motion covers recent requests in this respect from JI, SW and BA. In the case of SW this permission includes the necessity to re-site/replace and clear the drainage pipe under the entrance to property driveways. The Clerk was **instructed** to email JI and BA to confirm this permission. Cllrs acknowledged the work that residents undertake in this respect and that although such work is in accord with many individual access agreements and responsibilities, there is also no doubt that it helps to keep the parish council precept down for all.

ii. Sinton Green

- a) Tree works village green. **Resolved. Motion** to accept quote from B.Ball £100 (no VAT) to fell Copper Beech T195, which is in very poor condition and at risk of shedding dead branches. It was confirmed that the contractor has public liability in place and that he did not consider that a road closure was required. All wood will be removed from site. Prps: PA. Scnd: AC. Duly **approved**. The Clerk was **instructed** to put a note on the Facebook page if a specific date is received from the contractor.
- b) **Bus shelter repairs.** Works to be undertaken by JC Carpentry Solution asap and as soon as we have dry weather. *(note post meeting – works and all repairs have now successfully been undertaken)*
- c) **Mowing 2026-2027** – SS and Greenways Ground Maintenance have been invited to tender. SS quote remains the same price as last year at £90 per cut. No response from Greenways. **Resolved. Motion** to accept SS quotation. Prps: AC. Scnd: AS. Duly **approved**.
- d) **Resolved. Motion** to approve planting of replacement Christmas tree on the village green. Prps: PA. Scnd: AS. Duly **approved**. Cllrs gave thanks to all involved for their voluntary commitment to future maintenance and watering.

21/26 Infrastructure, services, highway matters, drainage and flooding

- a) To inspect and consider the Parish Projects and Enforcement List (Confidential) Ref correspondence from Worlds End x 2, Oakhall Green x 1.
- Items generally **noted** with no new instructions or actions, as awaiting progress by Highways and other third parties.
 - Fires were noted to be continuing at Monkwood Green on premises behind DH.
 - Cllr Collett had attended residents at Moseley Corner and received acknowledgement that letter/s from Land Drainage were being attended to. Grips and drainage channels had been cut in vicinity of the premises driveway and property entrance and appeared to have drained some of the excess water successfully. The Clerk was **instructed** to write to Land Drainage to confirm that the residents have received their correspondence and have tried to make contact in return, with little success.

21/26 continued

- b) To note that residents and relatives of residents have been contacting parish councillors direct to complain about parish council efforts to assist with drainage and flooding matters at Dark Lane.
- The Clerk was **instructed** to remove phone numbers from parish noticeboards so that all correspondence and complaints are directed to the Clerk in the first instance.

22/26 Reports from other Projects and Representatives

- a) **Grimley Peace Hall**, Sinton Green.
- Cllr Ayers and Cllr Wilson had attended the last Committee meeting. Parish Cllrs received a copy of the latest accounts and minutes. Thanks were once again given to the outgoing committee members.
 - Easter Bingo at the Hall on 13th March.
- b) **Bench repairs at the Hall** – waiting til warmer weather.
- c) **Defib recommended electrical improvements to RCD**. Clerk is in correspondence with HBTrust. The Clerk was **instructed** to check the hall defibrillator every two weeks in the absence of any other Cllr available to check this unit.
- d) **Lengthsman**. The 2026-27 lengthsman contract had been sent to SS for consideration. No other person has come forward from the County Council lengthsman contractor list. SS has indicated that he is happy to continue as Lengthsman at no hourly £ increase. **Resolved. Motion** to appoint SS. Prps: RW Scnd: AC. Duly **approved**.
- e) Lengthsman grant for 25/26 has now been fully claimed. Duly **noted**.

23/26 Finance, Policies and Administration

- a) To review payments made within the past month and to consider and Motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts, including monthly standing orders. Appendix 1. **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps. SR. Scnd: AC. Duly **approved**.
- b) To consider and approve payment of urgent accounts if any (Delegation to Clerk policy). Nil.
- c) To receive and motion to accept latest Bank Reconciliation. **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps.AC. Scnd: SR. Duly **approved**.
- d) Clerk timesheet for inspection. **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps. SW. Scnd: PA. Duly **approved**.
- e) Clerk's correspondence list for information. Appendix 2. Duly **noted**.
- f) Inspection of parish council Annual Calendar and actions outstanding. Duly **noted** all up to date.

24/26 Audit and Governance – in readiness for the annual audit in April.

- a) Motion to appoint the internal auditor P.M for the 2025/2026 internal audit. **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps. AS. Scnd: SR. Duly **approved**.
- b) Review and consider effectiveness of internal financial controls. Cllr Russell has received the spreadsheet of accounts and folder of all invoices.
- **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps. SR. Scnd: AC. Duly **approved**.
 - The Clerk was **instructed** to continue to use the website and Sharepoint to improve accessibility and dissemination of parish council documents.
 - The Clerk was **instructed** to request the website analytics in order to ascertain to what degree the website is used by residents.
 - The Clerk was **instructed** to write an article to encourage residents to use the new website.

24/26 continued

- c) Parish Clerk has reviewed all policies generally – polices will any general or sig. amendments have been shared direct with Cllrs. Parish council contact details have been updated on all and all have been published all on the parish website and Sharepoint. **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps. PA. Scnd: AC. Duly **approved**.
- d) Parish council land management policy. Latest version for Cllr comments and amendments prior to public consultation. **Resolved. Motion** to approve subject to one deletion ref existing situations. Prps. SR. Scnd: AC. Duly **approved**.
- e) To note that all risk assessments are being reviewed in light of the updated Risk Management Policy. Duly **noted**.
- f) All parish council assets have been inspected and the asset register updated as required. Duly **noted**.
- g) **Review of donations and grants.** To examine and debate current annual donations.
- **Resolved: Motion** to make no change to existing schedule of donations in the 2026/27 financial year and pay automatically. Subject to review in October in readiness for the next financial year. In particular to review in October once the new Hall Committee is bedded in and more able to provide financial forecasts in order that informed judgements can be made on future donation amounts. **Resolved. Motion** to approve. Prps. SW. Scnd: GP. Duly **approved** *Table below of donations to be made.*

Background. Donations made in the previous financial year:	£
Hallow Scouts & Guides annual donation	100
Nora Parsons Day Centre annual donation	100
Peace Hall annual donation	400
Peace Hall annual donation towards defibrillator electricity	10
Grimley School PTFA	0
Grimley St Barts Church	100
Grimley St Barts Church MHDC green waste bin x 2	155
Annual Remembrance Wreath (British Legion)	30
CPRE, in return for planning expertise and advice.	100

- h) AOB – Clerk spotted that the ‘data retention policy’ was missing from our website and fixed this. Duly **noted**.
- i) AOB – Insurance due 1st June 26. I’ve requested a quote for a 3 yr fixed deal from Clear Councils. Duly **noted**.

25/26 Standing item – Planning Enforcement.

- a) The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2). **Motion** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. **Nil items. No proposal.**

Continued overleaf

26/26 Correspondence Process

The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2). **Motion** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Clerk absented herself from this section.

- a. To consider the Clerk's request for Staffing Committee membership to be reviewed.
 - Two Cllrs requested to be removed from the Committee. The Committee now consists of Cllr Collett, Cllr Sinclair and Cllr Boyle.
- b. To set a date for the Clerk's appraisal via Staffing Committee.
 - No date could be set due to Cllr holidays.
- c. In response to specific inferences, all correspondence in relation to the Peace Hall sent by the Clerk within the last 12 months has been distributed to Cllrs for their inspection. To consider at this meeting, and to advise in writing to the Staffing Committee and Clerk any comments or recommendations arising from this.
 - *Not covered.*
- d. To consider at this meeting and to advise in writing to the Staffing Committee and Clerk, all feedback on Parish Clerk general performance and suggested development needs prior to the appraisal meeting.
 - *Not covered.*
- e. Motion for a small communications committee be established to assist with correspondence - particularly aimed at tricky or sensitive subjects, subject to seeking WCALC advice on the powers and legality therein. Noting that Committees must be diarised and agenderised in advance, meet in person, be open to the public and receive delegated powers in order to avoid matters being returned to Full Council for formal approval. Working Parties do not have to meet in public but cannot have delegated powers.
 - *Not covered.*
- f. Commitment by all to WCALC training dates to enhance ongoing understanding of local government, stay updated on regulations and procedures, support professional development and to aid fulfilment of roles as an employee and employer.
 - *Not covered.*

Personal cllr notes from meeting redacted

27/26 Correspondence, Dates for Diary, Items for Future Agenda.

- a. Atlas Mobile Phone Mast project – update if any.
Not covered.
- b. Approve precept news sheet (distributed Wed 18th Feb) for publication on website. Appendix 5.
Not covered

28/26 Date of next meeting

- a) **Monday 23rd March 2026** 7.30pm, Annual meeting of residents and thereafter Monthly PC meeting, Grimley Peace Hall, Sinton Green. The press and public are cordially invited to attend these meetings and should note Standing Orders in advance please.

Contact the parish clerk if you would like to receive agendas or minutes by email.
 Parish Clerk & RFO: Mrs Lisa Stevens, 9 The Limes, Kempsey, WR5 3LG.
 Tel: 01905 820956 / 07950256363 Email: parishclerk@grimley-pc.gov.uk <https://grimley-pc.gov.uk>

Notes to minutes – Terms

- Once approved, the Motion/decision is called a “resolution”
- Resolved – Where a decision is made about a Motion.
- Duly Approved – Motions where a formal vote took place, accepting the Motion.
- Duly Accepted/Agreed – Motions where no formal vote took place but the action/recommendation within the Motion or debate is to proceed. Usually for non-financial matters or for items already agreed as part of an existing budget.
- Declined – Motion where a formal vote took place, with the Motion rejected.
- Duly Noted – Information not requiring a vote.
- Abstentions or votes against a Motion will be noted but the minutes will NOT always show individual names, unless Councillors have declared an interest and the transparency of that interest must be maintained.

Requests for this information in other languages/audio/large print will be reasonably considered.

Please take a moment read the council’s privacy notice (on our website), which explains how we use and look after your information and your rights. This document is available via the website above, searching ‘G’ for Grimley and then selecting ‘publications’.

Appendix 1 & 2 Payments to be made this month and already made in the previous month under the Delegation Policy and Financial Regs.

Payment Ref	Payee	details	Amount £
99	Worcs CALC	Invoice for Cllr Russell Training 18/02/26. Invoice received 20/02/26.	48.00 Yet to be paid
100	Worcs CALC	Invoice for Cllr Russell Training 04/02/26. Invoice received 20/02/26.	48.00 Yet to be paid
115	Mr S. S	Lengthsman January worksheet. Received 23/02/2026	366.75 Yet to be paid
116	Grimley Peace Hall Foundation	Annual payment for defib electricity	10.00
	WJP Software Limited	Active Council Standard Website Support (with .gov.uk Domain). £346.80	
	WJP Software Limited	Councillor Emails £ 280.80	
	WJP Software Limited	Office 365 Business Standard £132.00	
117		Total of invoices above. VAT 126.6	759.60
118	CPRE - Campaign to Protect Rural England	Annual Membership renewal 2025/26	tbd
119	Mrs L Stevens	Monthly Expenses Feb 2026 and Home working allowance	29.58
120	Nest Pensions	Feb payment for Feb wage.	48.21
121	HMRC Shipley	EmployER Gross National Insurance Contributions	40.77
122	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage for Jan paid in Feb. Reported to HMRC 170226	Redacted on public copy £661.25
123	Lloyds Service charge	Taken out of bank account direct	4.25

Appendix 3 - Clerk correspondence where NOT included in agenda items above.

	Police Crime Commissioner newsletter
	PCSO quarterly contract
	NALC Chief Executive's bulletin
	WCALC monthly bulletin
	CPRE newsletter and monthly bulletin
	MHDC Planning monthly bulletin
	WCC Funding Finder monthly bulletin
	The Rural Funding Digest - Looking for funding for your local project or community group
	The Rural Bulletin – national rural news and ensuring rural communities have a voice
	Rural Services Network weekly bulletin
	HMRC – payroll update and legal requirements.
	Parish Magazine monthly submission
	WWT Natural Networks celebration event
	Kings Garden Party
	Online resource showcasing practical case studies on devolution
	All-new digital edition of Local Councils Explained
	Platform Housing Sinton Green
	Member slides NPPF Briefing
	SWDPR Main Modifications Consultation Event Reminder

Appendix 4 – National Planning Policy Framework: respond to the consultation

Suggested basis for response.....

Framework Topic: Valued landscapes

Consultation Question 181: *Do you agree policy N2 sets sufficiently clear expectations for how development proposals should consider and enhance the existing natural characteristics of sites proposed for development? Strongly agree, partly agree, neither agree nor disagree, partly disagree, strongly disagree. Please provide your reasons, particularly if you disagree.*

Proposed response: I am concerned that the new policy N2 will be insufficient to protect valued aspects of our rural landscapes, especially those outside nationally protected landscapes which are covered by Policy N4. Valued aspects of landscapes are currently protected under paragraph 187 of the current NPPF. I therefore ask for N2 paragraph 1(a) to be amended to refer to 'landscape character and value'.

I also do not believe that protection for our highest quality farmland is strong enough. 2022 [CPRE research](#) found that in the past 12 years we have lost over 14,000 hectares of prime agricultural land to development, including 287,864 houses — equivalent to the productive loss of around 250,000 tonnes of vegetables and enough to provide nearly two million people with their 5-a-day for an entire year. I call for policy N2 paragraph 1(b) to be changed to state a firm presumption against development of the highest quality (grades 1-3) farmland.

I welcome the new policy protections for established trees and hedgerows in policy N2 paragraph (1) (d), but call for the words 'wherever possible' to be removed as this will encourage non-compliance. CPRE is contributing towards the Environmental Improvement Plan's hedgerow planting target through our Hedgerow Heroes campaign. It is important that this work is backed up by commitments on developers to retain hedgerows where new development takes place.

Find out more: [National Planning Policy Framework: respond to the consultation - CPRE](#)

https://www.cpre.org.uk/action/national-planning-policy-framework-respond-to-the-consultation/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=NPPF_campaignemail&utm_content=NPPF+action+email+1+-+Feb+2026

Appendix 5 CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation 2026

[Our Current Consultations - Wychavon District Council](#)

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/about-wychavon-district-council/consultations>

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a tariff in the form of a standard charge on new development, which in south Worcestershire is set by the SWCs to help the funding of infrastructure. It is intended to supplement, or top up, other sources of funding to widen infrastructure delivery. Most development has some impact on infrastructure and should contribute to the cost of providing or improving infrastructure. The principle behind CIL is for those who benefit financially from a planning permission to pay towards the cost of funding the infrastructure needed to support development.

Type of development	Current charge per sqm	Proposed new charge per sqm
Housing Greenfield RDA (all schemes)	£54.70	£120.00
Housing Greenfield (9 or less units)	£43.27	£120.00
Housing Greenfield (10-49 units)	£54.70	£54.70
Housing Greenfield (50 or more units) (including RDAs)	£43.27	£120.00
Housing Brownfield (9 or less units) (excluding RDAs)	£0.00	£120.00
Housing Brownfield RDAs	£54.70	£54.70
Housing Brownfield (10 to 49 units) (excluding RDAs)	£0.00	£0.00
Housing Brownfield (50 or more units) (excluding RDAs)	£0.00	£0.00
Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) Greenfield	£108.17	£136.70
Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) Brownfield	£108.17	£108.17
Build to Rent Accommodation Greenfield	-	£0.00
Build to Rent Accommodation Brownfield	-	£0.00

Appendix 5 - Website article for approval:

The Precept Explained

Councils across the UK are faced with severe funding pressure and budgetary shortfalls and, as a result no longer make regular funding to parish councils. To mitigate against this, your Parish Council feels it is prudent to increase the local Precept. By the time of publication, your Parish Councillors will have debated how much to increase this by at the January parish council meeting.

What is a Precept? The Precept is the primary source of income for most parish councils. They do not receive any direct funding from Central Government. It represents a small proportion each household's council tax payment – between 3 and 4%. The funding helps to pay for the running of the parish council and the services it provides. In addition, parish councils seek grant funding for some projects.

What does Parish Council provide? Here are some of the key activities/outgoings:

- Maintenance of and insurance premiums for parish council owned land and assets: 8 hectares of SSSI and Common at Monkwood Green and associated equipment to manage the grassland, bins, phone booths and defibrillators, bus shelters, noticeboards, benches and public liability).
- Membership of the Lengthsman Scheme. This is where the parish pays a contribution towards hire of a contractor who attends to general roadside matters across the parish, cleaning signs, keeping visibility splays clear, clearing drain tops and gullies etc.
- Contribution towards maintenance of Public Rights of Way and the provision and maintenance of associated infrastructure in the parish.
- Provision and maintenance of public defibrillator[s] in the Parish.
- A statutory consultee on planning applications and a local voice on highways and environmental matters.

How is the Precept raised? Worcestershire Council collects your Council Tax on behalf of themselves, Police, Fire, Adult Social Care, and the Parish Councils in their district.

How is it calculated? At its meeting in January each year, your Parish Council sets the Precept for the following financial year. Discussions consider all projected income, grants, and outgoings expected in the financial year. The Precept is the balancing amount the Parish Council requires to deliver its services in the next financial year. This year, the Parish Council has considered the fact that we may need to pay for additional services once the process of Devolution (the merging of County and District Councils) is known in 2027/2028.

How much does the average household pay for the Precept?

- The precept is apportioned per household according to Council Tax Band

- The parish council precept for 2025-26 was £22,000 - around 3.2% of each household's total council tax bill (depending on council tax band).
- The 2025-26 precept of £73 per annum cost a band D household £1.40 per week.
- In 2026-27 this will be increased to £86 per annum costing a band D household £1.65 per week.

Increases are never welcome, but we took the following points into consideration:

- Historically, this parish council has raised the precept by the minimal possible amount each year. Between 2015 and 2025 the average increase each year was £2.20 per household, (or 4p per week) with no increase at all during 2020.
- The risk that Devolution outcomes will force Parish Councils to foot the bill for certain services previously paid for by the County and District Councils. These include a much larger contribution towards the Lengthsman Scheme, wider responsibility for gully cleaning, hedge cutting, and ditch clearing. It is also looking likely that parish councils will become responsible for arranging contractors to mow all roadside verges at least twice a year. If we do take on that responsibility, our biodiversity commitment will require that grass and arisings are actually removed from site and disposed of after mowing, to allow a wider range of grasses and flowers to flourish as they once did.
- The possibility that Parish Council will no longer receive a grant from the County and District Councillor Divisional Funding (discretionary grants that our higher tier councillors make to parish council projects). This often amounts to up to £500-£600 per year.
- Inflationary pressure on the cost of labour and raw materials, which impact our capital spending and maintenance work.
- The need to build up a protected fund for unforeseen repairs and renewals and the need to build up a fund for litigation (the process of resolving legal disputes through the court). In recent years, the parish council has twice had to appoint legal advice to clarify and advise in relation to accident claims and land ownership.
- Your Parish Clerk is available 24hr a day in an emergency and many of you have made use of that service over the years, as flood water rise or electricity goes off for example. Parish Councils can often help by letting the right people know what is going on and making sure that resident information is taken into account.

Overall, the Parish Council believes that this is a prudent increase given the current economic environment. Conscientious monitoring of income and expenditure over the years has enabled our Parish Council to create a stable financial base of £25,000 from which to deliver services and projects for the community.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the Clerk:

Mrs Lisa Stevens

parishclerk@grimley-pc.gov.uk

parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

07950256363 / 01905 820956

18/02/2026

-end-