



CHEDDAR PARISH COUNCIL

PRECEPT INFORMATION 2025-2026

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Parish councils are responsible for delivering important local services, and we would like to share with you how your contribution (the precept) is allocated for the upcoming financial year. The budget for 2025-26 is designed to maintain and improve the services that directly benefit our community and begins to make provision for services the Parish Council is expecting to be devolved from Somerset Council.

This leaflet sets out the main areas of the Parish Council's work and provides more information on how public money is spent within the parish.

How is the Parish Council run?

The Parish Council is made up of 15 Councillors from 2 wards: Cheddar and Nyland. Members are elected by the people of the parish every four years. The Parish Council employs one full-time and two part-time members of staff to administer the work of the Council. We also employ a full-time ranger and 2 part-time caretakers. Details of the councillors and contact details for the office can be found on our website.

The Parish Council is governed by statute, such as the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011. We are members of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which advises on updates to the law and changes in legislation such as GDPR and website accessibility and we are a member of the Somerset Association of Local Clerks (SALC).

What services do the Parish Council offer?

- We are a statutory consultee on planning applications and provide a local voice on highways and environmental matters.
- We have a Neighbourhood Plan which directs future developments in the parish, maintaining the standards of development as well as providing the parish with an enhanced and uncapped 25% portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (paid by housing developers), which it uses to fund infrastructure projects for the benefit of Cheddar.
- We manage the Community Pavilion and Hannah More Cottage, available for hire.
- We manage the playing fields at Sharpham Road, the skatepark and pump track and Hannah More Park.
- We manage the 3 allotments sites at Wideatts Road, Upper New Road and Hamfield.
- We manage Cheddar Cemetery at Sharpham Road.
- We support the parish environment including the parish planting and weekly cleansing.
- We manage the Riverside Gardens and Island Beds in the gorge.
- We provide and maintain the defibrillators located at Station Road and Sharpham Road.
- We manage the Speed Indicator Device to reduce speeding.

- We encourage community spirit through the Community Awards presented annually for services to the community.
 - We support local organisations through grant funding.
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What is new for 2025-26?

Plans are being made to begin implementing schemes highlighted in the parish council's biodiversity action plan.

The Parish Council will decide on plans for the modernisation of Parish Hall in Church Street to create a large fully accessible meeting room and adequate office space.

Provision is being made to take ownership of the public toilets at Daghole and Cliff Street car park. Both sites are in need of complete refurbishment and indicative costs will need to be budgeted for once the legal transfer is agreed and completed.

An increase in officer hours has been agreed to provide greater administration capacity as further services are devolved from the Unitary Authority.

We continue to budget cautiously and to ensure we have contingency reserves to maintain a healthy financial balance of providing for the community whilst anticipating future demands on its resources. We positively encourage your views and suggestions for the future of our parish for inclusion in the action plan. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and you can view our 2025-26 budget at any time on our website.

How is the Parish Council funded?

The Parish Council raises a precept based on its budgeted spending for the year. The precept is included in your Council Tax bill and is shown alongside other items such as Police & Fire and Social Care. In addition to the precept the council will seek funding in the form of grants for some of its projects. We also receive Community Infrastructure Levy payments.

What is the precept?

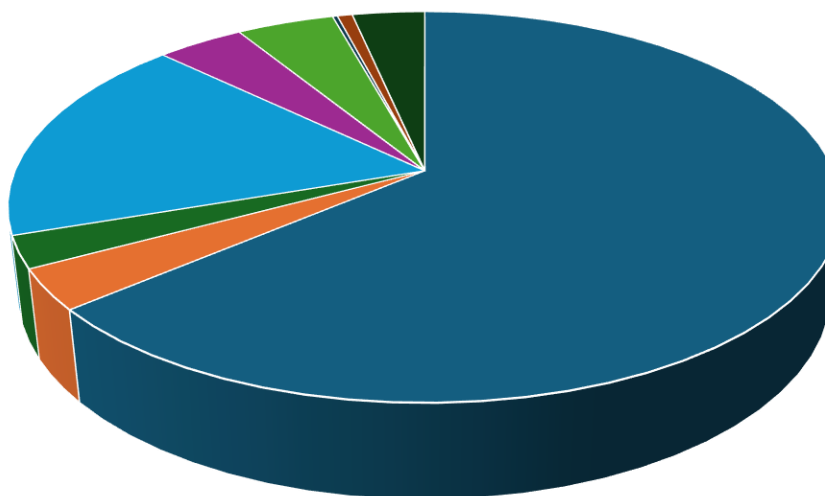
The precept is the levy raised by the Parish Council to fund its planned expenditure for the year. It is collected as part of your council tax. The amount is carefully considered annually to ensure it meets the needs of the community while keeping costs as low as possible. We strive to balance the requirements for essential services with affordability for our residents.

Conscientious monitoring of income and expenditure over the years has enabled Cheddar Parish Council to create a stable financial base, from which to deliver projects for the community in the face of Somerset Council's financial emergency. We are however, planning for services stopped by the Unitary Authority to be devolved to the Parish Council for delivery locally. It is intended that with careful control of its finances the Parish Council can take on some services and minimise the impact on residents as much as possible.

Budget for 2025-2026

The council incurs expenditure and raises income in order to provide its services. The breakdown of how the budget will be spent next year can be found below:

- Administration - £231,921
- Cheddar Community Pavilion - £12,189
- Hannah More Cottage - £9,575
- Open Spaces - £63,300
- Hannah More Park - £14,700
- Sharpham Road playing fields - £16,400
- Cheddar Cemetery - £822
- Allotments - £2,520
- Activities and grants - £12,200



Total **£363,627**

What does this mean for me?

An average Band D property will increase for 2025-26 to £141.23; this equates to a cost of **£2.72** per week, which is a rise of 57p.

Administration

Office running costs, staffing costs, training, IT, health & safety, publications and marketing. **£1.74**

Cheddar Community Pavilion

Maintenance costs, health & safety **8.5p**

Hannah More Cottage

Maintenance costs, health & safety, grass cutting **7p**

Open Spaces

Grass cutting, bins, benches, noticeboards, tree planting & maintenance **46.5p**

Hannah More Park

Grass cutting, hedges, play equipment inspections and maintenance **11p**

Sharpham Road playing fields

Pitch maintenance, skatepark and pump track maintenance, hedge trimming **14p**

Cheddar Cemetery

Ground maintenance and hedge trimming **0p**

Allotments

Hedges and path maintenance **0.5p**

Activities and Grants

Parish Council Grant scheme, community events **8.5p**

Please note figures are rounded

