

What is the Parish Precept?

The precept is the portion of Council Tax that is collected specifically to fund the Parish Council. It is set each year by the Parish Council and collected on our behalf by South Kesteven District Council.

Unlike County or District Councils, Parish Councils do not receive direct government funding for day-to-day services. The precept is therefore the main source of income used to maintain local facilities and deliver services that directly benefit the village.

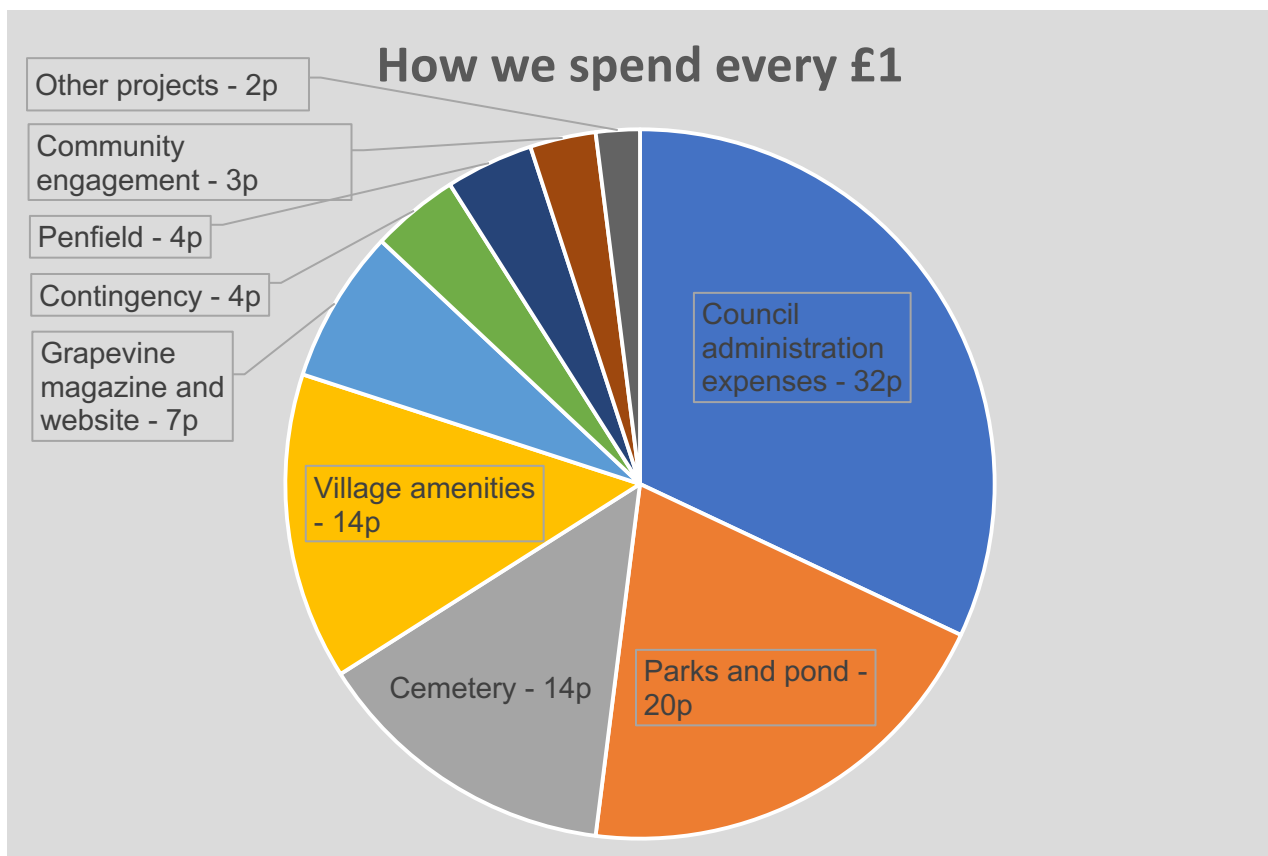
The precept for 2026/27 has increased by 5% per household. The increase reflects rising costs across services, maintenance, and compliance. The Council has sought to keep the increase proportionate while ensuring we can continue to maintain village facilities to a good standard. In addition to the precept, the Council also receives income from cemetery burials and voluntary donations, which helps offset some running costs and reduces pressure on the precept. We also bid for grants and funding to support larger projects in the village.

Parish Councils are the most local tier of government. Our responsibilities include:

- Maintaining play areas and parks
- Managing open spaces and village amenities
- Maintaining the cemetery
- Supporting community communication (website/newsletter)
- Supporting small community initiatives
- Ensuring good governance and financial management

How We Spend Every £1

The chart shows how each £1 of the precept is allocated across services and responsibilities.



How We Spend Every £1

32p – Council Administration Expenses

This covers the essential running costs of the council, including:

- Clerk salary and employment costs
- Insurance
- Audit and professional advice
- Training
- IT and subscriptions
- Meeting costs and statutory compliance

Strong governance is essential to ensure public money is properly managed and that the council operates legally and transparently.

20p – Parks and Pond

This funds:

- Maintenance and inspection of play equipment
- Grass cutting and grounds maintenance
- Repairs and improvements
- Pond upkeep and safety measures

These are some of the most visible and well-used village assets, particularly for families and young people.

14p – Cemetery

This covers:

- Grounds maintenance
- Path upkeep and general repairs
- Administration of burials
- Long-term care of the site

The cemetery is a sensitive and important community space that requires ongoing maintenance and responsible management.

14p – Village Amenities

Includes:

- Benches / Planters
- Noticeboards
- General small infrastructure items
- Village environment improvements

These are the everyday touches that help keep the village tidy and welcoming.

How We Spend Every £1

7p – Grapevine Magazine and Website

Supports:

- Printing
- Website updates
- Public communication

Clear communication ensures residents are informed, engaged and able to hold the council accountable.

4p – Contingency

This is a prudent reserve to manage:

- Unexpected repairs
- Emergency works
- Unplanned cost increases

Good financial practice requires councils to maintain sensible reserves to protect against risk.

4p – Penfield

Allocated toward:

- Maintenance or agreed support for Penfield nature reserve

This reflects the council's role in supporting shared community spaces.

3p – Community Engagement

Used to:

- Support small local initiatives
- Events or engagement activity
- Encouraging resident participation

Strong communities rely on more than infrastructure — they rely on involvement.

2p – Other Projects

A small allocation for:

- Minor projects
- One-off improvements
- Emerging priorities during the year