

Risby Parish Council Report to accompany 2023/24 budget

Costs have risen in the last year, for example the cost of insurance has increased by almost £200.

Risby Parish Council has obtained a quote to replace the damaged gabions around the pond in School Road (near Hall Lane). The quote received in April 2022 was £11,076 + VAT (which can be reclaimed). Taking into account money put aside for pond work and a village project, the shortfall is still £5,463.

The only way to raise this money would be through the precept. The costings are as follows based on a band D property:

Budget options 2022 - 23								
Pond project								
Budget allocation (based on quote received and amount allocated in reserves)	£200.00	£463.00	£1,000.00	£1,463.00	£2,463.00	£3,463.00	£4,463.00	£5,463.00
Amount paid by a band D property in 2022/33 (over the whole year)	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99	£37.99
Amount a band D property would pay in 2024/24	£42.56	£43.44	£45.23	£46.78	£50.12	£53.46	£56.80	£60.13
Increase/decrease	£4.57	£5.45	£7.24	£8.79	£12.13	£15.46	£18.81	£22.14
% increase for a band D property	12.03	14.35	19.06	23.14	31.93	40.72	49.51	58.28

Current reserves

Reserve	Opening Balance	Transfers	Spend	Receipts	Current Balance
Earmarked					
Election costs	£1,428.00	£50.00			£1,478.00
Pond maintenance	£2,500.00	£800.00			£3,300.00
Emptying of bins	£657.00				£657.00
Village project	£1,313.00				£1,313.00
Tree survey and tree works	£1,594.00	£1,145.00	£975.00		£1,764.00

Clerk and councillor training	£80.00	£20.00			£100.00
VAS	£150.00	£50.00			£200.00
Allotments	£50.00	£50.00	£299.67	£95.00	-£104.67
War memorial		£200.00			£200.00
Defibrillator maintenance			£54.00		-£54.00
Earmarked					
TOTAL RESERVE	£7,772.00	£2,315.00	£1,328.67	£95.00	£8,853.33
GENERAL FUND					£5,720.03
TOTAL FUNDS					£14,573.36

Things to consider:

- With inflation rising and costs increasing we need to maintain a good general reserve and ideally we need to be increasing it.
 - The quote for pond work is for one pond only and is likely to have increased since April 2022 when we obtained it. The gabions in the pond on The Green have been eroded as well. Although the damage is caused by run off from School Road, Suffolk County Council will not help meet the cost of the work.
 - We will need to plan how the ponds will be managed long term. Dredging is now very costly due to the high cost of disposing of any silt removed from it.
 - West Suffolk Council has quoted the following cost for the 2023 elections:
 - Uncontested election: approximately £100.
 - Contested election with district council elections uncontested £2,000 - £3,000
 - Contested election with district council elections also contested £1,500 - £2,000
- We have £1,478 put aside for election costs. If we have a contested election any shortfall would have to be covered out of our reserve.