

Update from the Responsible Financial Officer, Clare Taylor – Badwell Ash Parish Council

The Badwell Ash Parish Council team has had a busy and exciting year so far. I would like to take this opportunity to outline the current financial position of the Parish Council and explain how our funds are managed.

Financial Year & Budget Setting

Our financial year runs from April to March. Before the year ends, we set our budgets for the following year and review our reserves — funds allocated for planned projects or future needs within the village. These allocations may change as priorities evolve.

The Parish Council receives an annual **precept**, collected by the District Council through Council Tax and passed directly to us. This forms the core of our operating budget and supports the running of the village, including staffing costs such as our Clerk's salary. For **2026/27**, the precept is **£36,647.00**.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

In addition to the precept, the Parish Council receives a portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Normally, parishes receive 15% of CIL collected from local developments. Last year we received **£88,888.00**. However, because Badwell Ash has developed a **Neighbourhood Development Plan**, we will then receive **25%**. The plan is now in its final stages — more updates will follow soon.

Grant Funding & Major Projects

The Parish Council actively seeks additional funding opportunities. We are currently bidding for a **£250,000 Sports Infrastructure Grant** to deliver a new MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and significantly enhance sports field facilities in the village. This project aims to support wellbeing, family activities, community engagement, and team events.

Current Financial Position

We currently hold a healthy bank balance of approximately **£245,000**. These funds are earmarked for major projects, including the new MUGA and the redevelopment of the Village Hall.

We are working closely with the Village Hall Trustees and are excited about progressing plans for a modern, vibrant community space. We also continue to support our beautiful village Church in the heart of our village, helping them develop the building into a more lively and welcoming hub for community use. Both the Village Hall and the Church have access to external grants, and the Parish Council will assist wherever needed.

Financial Oversight

Our Financial Steering Group which also includes residents of the parish, reviews all financial matters and provides recommendations to the Parish Council, which then makes final decisions on how funds are allocated.

Community Grants

The Parish Council offers grants to support local groups and new initiatives. If you would like more information, please contact: **rfo@badwellashparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Transparency

All financial records are available on our website:

<https://badwellashparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Please do get in touch if you have any further questions.

Clare Taylor

Parish Councillor and RFO