



## **Burston and Shimpling Parish Council**

Responsible Financial Officers Annual Report for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

As always the budget has been prepared with the aim of maintaining essential parish services, protecting community assets, and ensuring the long-term financial resilience of the Council, while recognising the ongoing pressure on household finances. Therefore the Band D rate for council tax was increased by £3.00 to £65.00 to give a precept of £14,105.00 for the year.

Maintenance continues to represent the largest element of parish expenditure. This reflects the Council's responsibility for the Recreation Ground (grass and hedge cutting, ditch clearance for example), play equipment and safety inspections. Other items around the Parish including St. George's Shimpling church yard, street furniture, (benches, bus shelter, dog and waste bins), and summer toilet facilities.

A successful application for grant funding from our County Councillor enabled us to add an Insect Hotel in the Community Orchard.

The Village Gateway Sign project, started in 2024, was finally completed this year.

We continue to support local youth groups and other village activities when approached to do. We help administer the bank account for the Burston Community Fund, which is managed by the Open Garden Group, which had another very successful event. See the Parish Council website for further information about grant availability.

The Parish Council is exempt from external audit for this year and all the required accounting documents from the internal audit will be made available on the website

<https://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk>

The RFO would like to thank our Clerk Fran Sharp for her assistance during the year, and our bank signatories Angela and Keith.