

1. I attach the Financial Snapshot as at 19/11/24. During the period since my last report we have collected the balance of this year's precept and paid for the maintenance works on the Green carried out during September and October. Our current cash balances amount to £7722 . Whilst our remaining committed expenditure for 2024/5 is more than offset by recoverable VAT we are still hoping to take any necessary measures to deal with the continuing damage to verges on Olive Hill and by the Oxfordshire Way both of which will be considered at our meeting. An allowance of £500 has also been made to bring administration and the website up to date over the last quarter. Nevertheless owing to only one cut of the grass being possible and GCC highways undertaking to assist with works by the Oxfordshire Way our year end reserves should be of the order of £5000, assuming there are no further contingencies arising in the meanwhile, which will provide a sounder buffer than we were anticipating.

2. I attach a provisional budget for 2025/26 as part of a rolling 3Yr plan for which I will be seeking your approval. In broad terms this provides a better means of assessing a prudent continuing level of precept which will accommodate major fluctuations arising from cyclical expenditure such as the 3 year tree survey and remedial works. In relation to annual expenditure on the green, apart from the grass-cutting these tend to vary between categories as specific issues arise which have in the past typically cost in excess of £1000. There are a number that might occur over the 3 year period : Simon and I view the allowances made as reasonable estimates of the total costs which might be expected although the exact allocations are somewhat arbitrary. With regard to administrative costs I have re-instated the core provision of around £2000 to bring these on to a more professional footing and reduce the burden on our Clerk as soon as we are able to do so. I have allowed for 2% annual inflation uplifts on income and expenditure . The overall effect is that the precept is otherwise unaffected with 2025/6 based on that received for 2024/5 plus 2%, and over the 3 year period reserves are built up to meet the higher expenditure in year 3 but close at much the same £5000 level as they open. I have also re-checked the benchmarks for precept in 2024/5 ; the recognised comparator is the Band D rate . Ours was £77.57 , the average for Cotswold Town and Parishes was £107.94, and the national average was £85.89.