

## The Budget Explained

Wool Parish Council has a statutory duty to prepare an annual budget. The budget is one of the most important annual tasks that the council must undertake and is required as part of the 'proper practices' set out in the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners' Guide.

In September, the clerk (also the Responsible Finance Officer) prepares a budget proposal based on the year to date spend, the predicted spend at the end of the current year and anticipated variances for the next year based on council plans and decisions. The budget proposal is put to the Policy and Resource Committee in October or November by the clerk to help councillors decide the precept for the following year. The proposal shows plans for expenditure, and income other than the precept and is approved by full council at the November or December meeting. The council's financial year runs from 1 April - 31 March. The precept is a demand on Dorset Council, passed on to parishioners via the Council Tax.