

Explanation of Variances.

Box 2 – Precept or Rates and Levies: +70% £22,070.

Over many years Corfe Castle Parish Council had used reserves to “cover” any overspend and to help keep the precept down, however for the 2022/23 budget Corfe Castle Parish Council acknowledged the recommendation from the RFO / Finance Working Group to increase the Precept so that all money required to run the Parish was collected each year from Precept and not partial from reserves. The Parish Council also acknowledged the need to increase some earmarked reserves funds so that there were reserves to replace equipment such as playground facilities and office equipment which are near the end of their usable life, along with increasing the general contingency reserve to approximately equal half average yearly precept.

Box 3 – Total other receipts (not including Precept and Rates): -13% £5,712.

There has been a decrease in other receipts, totalling £5,712 primarily as in FY21/22 Corfe Castle Parish Council took over the running of the Gods Acre bank account from the Trustee, taking on the bank account assets.

Box 4 – Staff Costs: -3% decrease £513 – No explanation necessary.

Box 5 – Loan interest / Capital repayment – No explanation necessary

Box 6 – All other payments (not including staff costs): –40% £33,201.

There has been a decrease in all other payments primarily as in FY21/22 Corfe Castle Parish Council purchased new playground equipment in total approx. £28,500, which was over and above normal activity.

The remaining amount is covered by a reduction in the following areas:

- £786 less spend on training in FY22/23 as in FY21/22 the Council paid for the Clerks CiLCA training.
- £408 less spend on insurance, as in FY22/23 there was a change in providers which reduced the cost.
- £290 less spend on Village Hall rental as the Hall was not rented as often as in FY21/22
- £1,625 less spend on donations / contributions to local organisations as application numbers declined.
- £841 less spend on Weeding / Highway, as Council decided not to carry out this service as the Unity Council are again weeding.
- £294 less spend on Defibrillator spares. In FY21/22 replacement batteries and pads where required. These tend to last several years.
- £252 less spend on water rates, as not as much water was used with the toilet block compared to FY21/22
- £100 less spend on broadband / hosting fees. Contract change saving £100.
- £20 less spend on refuse collection due to one less collection day in FY22/23
- £88 less spend in Sundry Items for FY22/23 compared to FY21/22 due to the purchase of items required (Condolence book, black arms bands, table cloth) in preparation for the death of the now late Queen in FY21/22.

Box 7 – Balances carried forward – No explanation necessary.

Box 8 – Total Value of cash and short-term investments – No explanation necessary.

Box 9 – Total fixed assets plus long-term investments and assets: –7% £9,085 - No explanation necessary. However, the decrease has come because old playground and adult fitness equipment has been removed.

Box 10 – Total borrowings – No explanation necessary