

Headline Summary .

1. The 2025/2026 SHX Parish Council Budget has necessitated an increase of 68% on the previous years running costs managed by SHX Parish Council.

2. Stoke residents total council tax 2025/26 cost is within the range of what other local villages are paying (see table below).

3. For Band D housing this means an increase of £4.33 a month out of the overall council tax increase of £12.89 is being invested into the facilities managed by Stoke Parish Council.

The Detail:

Funding the Parish Council – The Precept

What is a Precept?

The Precept is a tax that Parish Councils charge their local electors to meet their budgetary requirements.

Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their Precept, plus any other income they generate from services or facilities they provide.

The Parish Council Precept is part of the Council Tax and is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payments, it requests this funding from its 'local billing authority' – in our case, South Norfolk Council (SNC). The Parish Council is required (by law) to agree a budget before it can set its Precept.

How is it Calculated?

The Precept requirement is the difference between the Parish Council's estimated income and its anticipated spending requirements for the financial year (its budget). The financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. The Parish Council has to agree a budget before it can set its Precept and both must be agreed by the full Parish Council. This normally finalised in January but the budget is first discussed at the previous November Parish Council Meeting.

When calculating the Precept, the Parish Council takes into consideration current year's spending levels – for ongoing services for which it is responsible and these might include:-

- recreation facilities
- grass cutting
- insurance
- staffing
- contractors' and suppliers' charges
- costs for plans or projects
- maintenance/replacement costs
- annual audit costs
- provision for contingencies and reserves
- levels of anticipated income – from services for which it is responsible e.g. rental income, allotment fees, and grants

Once a Precept has been approved by the Parish Council, they inform the higher charging authority (SNC) and it is then added to residents' Council Tax bills. SNC pay the Precept to the Parish Council in two instalments (April and September).

Tax base and Band D equivalent.

Part of the Precept Calculation is the 'Band D equivalent'. Band D is the middle band of Council Tax and is supposed to represent the amount of Council Tax paid on an average property in the area. The Band D equivalent provides a measure which allows precepts among councils of different sizes to be compared. The estimated number of Band D equivalent properties in the tax base is notified to the Parish Council prior to the Precept setting exercise. The required Precept is divided by the number of houses in the tax base to get the Band D equivalent.

What you pay is dependent on your house banding

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Band A | 6/9 |
| Band B | 7/9 |
| Band C | 8/9 |
| Band D | 9/9 (base line) |
| Band E | 11/9 |
| Band F | 13/9 |
| Band G | 15/9 |
| Band H | 18/9 |

The Precept is a tax, included within the local Council Tax, which enables the Parish Council to perform its functions. Parish Councils can apply for other funding such as grants and funding awards, generally for specific projects, but they do not receive funds directly from Central Government.

Parish councils are not bound by a cap on the amount they can increase their precept by. Their precept is dictated by their agreed budget for that year.

So let’s talk money - how much has my Council Tax increased by this year?

This table shows the difference by band of council tax cost from 2024/2025 to 2025/2026

Stoke holy cross council tax comparison between 2024 & 2025

| | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 2025 | 1592.45 | 1857.86 | 2123.27 | 2388.68 | 2919.50 | 3450.32 | 3981.13 | 4777.36 |
| 2024 | 1489.37 | 1737.60 | 1985.83 | 2234.06 | 2730.52 | 3226.98 | 3723.43 | 4468.92 |
| Annual difference | 103.08 | 120.26 | 137.44 | 154.62 | 188.98 | 223.34 | 257.70 | 308.44 |
| Monthly difference | 8.58 | 10.02 | 11.45 | 12.86 | 15.75 | 18.61 | 21.48 | 25.70 |
| Daily difference | 0.28 | 0.33 | 0.38 | 0.42 | 0.52 | 0.61 | 0.71 | 0.85 |

What element of increased cost directly relates to Stoke Holy Cross Parish Councils precept ie their ability to deliver against their 2025 budget?

Element of the increase in council tax attributable to Stoke Holy Cross PC's

| | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2025 | 85.46 | 99.70 | 113.95 | 128.19 | 156.68 | 185.16 | 213.65 | 256.38 |
| 2024 | 50.70 | 59.15 | 67.60 | 76.05 | 92.95 | 109.85 | 126.75 | 126.75 |
| Annual difference | 34.76 | 40.55 | 46.35 | 52.14 | 63.73 | 75.31 | 86.90 | 129.63 |
| Monthly difference | 2.90 | 3.38 | 3.86 | 4.33 | 5.31 | 6.28 | 7.24 | 10.80 |
| Daily difference | 0.10 | 0.11 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.17 | 0.21 | 0.24 | 0.36 |

Where does Stoke fit in when compared to other local villages when comparing Band D Council Tax charges?

Band D council tax village comparison

| Village | 2025/26 council tax |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Poringland | 2389.74 |
| SHX | 2388.68 |
| Swainsthorpe | 2351.51 |
| Caistor St Edmund's | 2316.53 |
| Saxlingham | 2313.87 |
| Brooke | 2304.05 |
| Shotesham | 2293.04 |
| Framingham Earl | 2291.50 |
| Swardeston | 2282.64 |
| Framingham Pigot | 2260.48 |

The table above shows Stoke is within the range of the local villages' band D council tax for 2025/26

What make the Stoke different this year is that Stoke has taken on new responsibilities with the new Hall which include increased running / maintenance costs proportional to the size of this new facility.

The table below shows how the 2025/2026 PC budget has been allocated

| Area | Detail | New/existing | % increase on previous year | Budget amount for 2025/2026 | Notes |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Admin | Insurance | Existing | 20% | £3600.00 | |
| | Audit fees | Existing | 350% | £1800.00 | Different level of audit red due to previous years income/expenditure costs |
| | Subscriptions | Existing | 28.72% | £605.00 | |
| | Stationery incl website/pc | Existing | -47% | £265.00 | |
| | Information commissioner | Existing | 0% | £35.00 | |
| | Carol close play area lease | Existing | 0% | £300.00 | |
| | Clerks allowance | Existing | 0% | £312.00 | |
| | Training courses | Existing | -18.48% | £150.00 | |
| | SSG admin fees | Existing | 0% | £100.00 | |
| Total | | Existing | 36.07% | £7167.00 | |
| HR | Salaries clerk | Existing | 5.36% | £11800.00 | |
| | Salaries - clerks pension | Existing | 4.55% | £1150.00 | |
| | Salaries caretaker | Existing | -49.49% | £5000.00 | |
| | PAYE /NI | Existing | 43.75% | £4600.00 | NI increase & new caretaker now PAYE |
| Total | | Existing | -11.22% | £22550.00 | |
| Maintenance | General & repairs (incl village signs/ notice boards x4, bus shelters x 3, phone boxes x 2) | Existing | 0% | £250.00 | |
| | Defibrillators x 3 | Existing | 100% | £500.00 | |
| Total | | Existing | 50% | £750 | |
| Community Hall | Hall costs | Existing | 0% | £10000.00 | |
| | Electricity | Existing | 172.73% | £6000.00 | |
| | Fire protection | New | N/A | £50.00 | |
| | Fire alarm | New | N/A | £280.00 | |
| | Intruder alarm | New | N/A | £90.00 | |
| | Online booking system | New | N/A | £200.00 | |
| | WiFi/simcards/router | New | N/A | £450.00 | |
| | Hall website | New | N/A | £150.00 | |
| | General repairs | Existing | 300% | £2000.00 | Increased to take vandalism into account |
| | Water rates | Existing | 0% | £600.00 | |
| | Increased hours for cleaning | Existing | 37.93% | £2000.00 | Hours increased due to size of new hall |
| | Accrue for floor replacement | New | N/A | £2000.00 | |
| | Accrue for skirting/doors/sills repainting | New | N/A | £1350.00 | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| | Accrue for ceiling repainting | New | N/A | £670.00 | |
| | Accrue for wall repainting | New | N/A | £2500.00 | |
| Total | | New & Existing | 92.14% | £28340.00 | |
| Playing fields x2, wild flower meadow, grass pathways x2 (Norwich rd & Long Lane) | General repairs | Existing | 150% | £2500.00 | |
| | Grass maintenance | Existing | 92.31% | £7500.00 | |
| | Play area inspection | Existing | 25% | £250.00 | |
| | Play-area equipment repairs | Existing | 100% | £1000.00 | |
| | New play equipment | New | N/A | £5000.00 | |
| | Dog bin charges (x9) | Existing | 4.17% | £1250.00 | |
| | Wild flower meadow maintenance | Existing | 0% | £500.00 | |
| | Trees | Existing | 0% | £3000.00 | |
| Total | | Existing | 48.15% | £16000.00 | |
| Other | Donations | Existing | 0% | £150.00 | |
| | SHX PCC grant | Existing | 0% | £500.00 | |
| Total | | Existing | 0% | £650.00 | |
| Fixtures/fittings/furniture for hall | Microwave/cutlery/crockery for hall | New | N/A | £400.00 | |
| | Bins inside & outside hall | New | N/A | £600.00 | |
| | Cafe area tables/chairs for hall | New | N/A | £3000.00 | |
| | Structural window & door blinds | New | N/A | £5000.00 | |
| | Audio/visual equipment for hall | New | N/A | £0.00 | Not included in budget will look to raise money to pay |
| | Acoustic boards for hall/ cameras | New | N/A | £5000.00 | |
| Total | | New | N/A | £14000.00 | |
| Reserves | Funding reqd to rebuild reserves | New | N/A | £10000.00 | |
| Total | | New | N/A | £10000.00 | |
| Events | Funding set aside for potential events to e summer fair etc | New | N/A | £3000.00 | |
| Total | | New | N/A | £3000.00 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | £107457.00 | |