

Bidborough Parish Council

Council Meeting

20 May 2026

Council Reserves

At the last meeting I reported that the Council Reserves stood at £95991.39 compared to £113797.31 at the start of the 2025/26 financial year. Current Council policy requires that the General Reserve Fund which is not allocated to any named Reserve needs to stand at a minimum of £50000 leaving £45999.39 for named reserves.

At the start of last year, the earmarked reserves were

Birchwood Ash Dieback Survey work - £8500 – Project complete
Church Bank - £5000 - remaining sum - £5000
Church Wall - £10000 – remaining sum - £4315
Churchyard (inc Lychgates) - £4000 - remaining sum - £1131
Community/Sports Pavilion - £9000 – remaining sum – 2780
Highways Schemes - £15500 – remaining sum - £15500
Streetlight Refurbishment - £1000 – remaining sum - £1000

Of these schemes Birchwood Ash Dieback is now completed and the funds set aside for highways improvements was not used as the new VAS is to be funded by TWBC. However, the Council still wishes to put in some double yellow lines for which funding will need to be allocated

Therefore, the level of reserves at the start of the year is £95991 and a possible allocation of funding could be as follows

General Reserve Fund - £50000
Churchyard works (inc Lychgates, Wall, Tombs and Bank) – £32991.39
Highways Schemes - £10000
Community/Sports Pavilion - £3000

It is quite possible that the Council may face expenditure on these items such as the Lychgates which could take up all of the earmarked reserves and leave the Council with a difficult decision on whether to borrow funds from the PWLB or to make a significant increase in the precept. Even with a lower figure for these works there seems to be a flow of work emanating from the Churchyard and a desire to do schemes to improve the Parish and its environment there will need to be a policy of seeking regular funds from the precept to ensure that these schemes/work can be funded.

However, until the cost of the works for the Lychgates is known it is very difficult to estimate how much funding the Council is going to need over the next few years and the impact that will have on the Council's precept going forward.

Recommended: That the Council allocates its current level of reserves.