

## OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT FOR FEB 2026 PARISH MAGAZINE

At this time of year the parish council, like many of us, has to consider our finances. Mindful of the likely increase in the Somerset Council share of your council tax bill we have kept the increase to a minimum through a combination of careful budgeting and allocating reserves to areas that we believe benefit our community.

Our budget for 2026/2027 will be £50,973 which equates to £67.93 pa for a Band D property, or around £1.30 per week. We hope that you will agree that this represents good value for money.

During this year we hope to make progress with the implementation of a 20mph scheme in Washford – although Somerset Council is resisting a speed restriction on the A39 through the village or a pedestrian crossing we continue to press for this through our county councillors, and we thank them for their support.

Our budget also includes for the provision of a further Speed Indicator Device with plans to initially site this near Washford Station and we are seeking grants to offset some of the cost. Residents of Old Cleeve are also investigating raising funds for another SID to be located Between Dragon's Cross and Blue Anchor – we are all aware of the increased traffic since the closure of the B3191 and this is something the parish council is keen to support.

We are also pleased to announce that we have offered a three-year funding agreement to the Blue Anchor Toilets Community Interest Company. This will provide £6000 of public money each year with an annual review linked to inflation. We believe this will provide certainty of funding for the Blue Anchor Toilets and is fair to council tax payers. As a community we should all be grateful to the small band of volunteers who work to maintain the toilets in such excellent condition, and we hope that all users will make a voluntary contribution to their upkeep.

Through our grants programme we also recognised the work done by Roadwater Cricket Club in cutting the grass at the Recreation Grounds, by contributing £400 towards their costs, and assisting with a £500 donation towards the cost of a new mowing machine.

Weather permitting, the new play equipment will be installed at Washford Recreation Ground and be in use for the spring weather.

We are sorry to say that our talented Clerk, Andrea Johnson, is leaving us in February – she will be much missed for her experience and sound advice, but also for her expertise in obtaining grant funding, particularly for the new play equipment, and we await the results of the application to Sports England for the resurfacing of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which she also produced.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 16th February at 7pm in the Church Room, Old Cleeve, and all are welcome to attend. We still have two vacancies on the parish council – if you care about your local community then we invite you to come along and listen to the discussions and consider applying for one of the vacant seats in Roadwater or Washford wards. The agenda and papers are available on our website: [www.oldcleeveparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.oldcleeveparishcouncil.gov.uk)