

**BURES ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Balance as at 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 | 24,027.34 |
| Includes                                  |           |
| Retention Fund                            | 7,000.00  |
| Christmas Lights Fund                     | 1,704.23  |
| Election Reserves                         | 250.00    |
| Bus Shelter donations                     | 515.00    |
| Grants unspent                            | 500.00    |
| CIL Fund unspent                          | 3,428.60  |

**Parish precept to Braintree District Council for financial year 2026/27: £34,500**

An increase of £2,000 – agreed to ease change over to Devolution, to cover the Cemetery Authority shortfall and the loss of the Street Clean grant.

**Parish Element of Band D Tax Rate 2026/27 £79.42 (2025/26: £79.98)**

| <b>Allocation of Parish Budget:</b> | <b>2025/26</b> | <b>2026/27</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cemetery Authority                  | £5,500         | £6,500         |
| Sportsground                        | £7,500         | £7,500         |
| Clerk's salary                      | £9,250         | £10,000        |
| Lighting                            | £600           | £600           |
| Insurance                           | £800           | £795           |
| Training                            | £250           | £250           |
| Hall hire                           | £180           | £180           |
| Auditors                            | £410           | £450           |
| Administration                      | £600           | £600           |
| Subscriptions                       | £500           | £500           |
| Donations/parish items              | £250           | £250           |
| Repairs                             | £150           | £150           |
| Projects                            | £0             | £0             |
| Grounds Maintenance                 | £8,000         | £8,000         |
| Gritting/flooding                   | £200           | £200           |

The parish council will no longer receive a Street Clean grant from BDC for year ending 2026/27 which is currently in the region of £1,900. This grant offset the grounds maintenance costs met by the parish council during the year.

The Christmas Lights fund is held in Bures St Mary Parish Council accounts and currently stands at £1,704.23 when VAT claim received.

Administration figure includes changeover of HMRC finances from Clerk to outsourced, use of Dropbox for security of files, IT, website, data protection, stationery and bank charges.

The Bures NHP fund is held in the Bures Hamlet Parish Council accounts. A preliminary grant of £3,942 was received during 2021/22. A further grant of £3,695 received in July 2022. A third and final grant of £10,000 received in 2023/24. All monies have now been spent.

Bures St Mary Parish Council has received several grants this year for various projects. £400 for the installation of a bleed kit cabinet from the County Councillor Award fund £300 for a grit bin at Arger Fen from the District Councillor Award fund, £1,495 from Bures Music Festival for a new Church Square defibrillator, £1,000 from Bures Music Festival towards the running of the Christmas Lights Scheme and £300 from the 8 Bells Quiz Group also towards the running of the Christmas Lights Scheme.

The Parish Council also has a S137 budget to meet costs for parish projects or donations. It has used this budget for £50 towards the bleed kit demonstration event, £50 for the bleed kit installation and £200 towards printing costs of the parish magazine. The Parish Council is also currently allocating further S137 funds towards the costs of Postmaster Robert Harrod's retirement do on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month.