

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL

BUDGET REPORT 2026/2027.

When formulating this budget report and recommendations members must consider many factors outside of the control of the council.

1. Inflation.
2. Increased energy costs
3. Increased wage costs
4. Investment and repair of current assets.

The council tax precept for 2025/2026 was £90,400 with a charge for a “Band D” property was £97. This precept and income allowed the council to invest in further repairs to the Community Lake and Orchard. The council has continued to invest in the re-placement and refurbishment of the streetlights owned by the council; the council will also continue to invest in energy efficient lamps.

The Council also completed the purchase of 7 acres of agricultural land to use as further football pitches. The total investment was £60,000, funded by s106 money, FA grants and the council’s revenue account.

However, the municipal year 2025/2026 has identified financial many challenges.

Manea Parish Council and Community are quite unique within the Fenland Area, we own our cemetery, we are owners in possession of the S M Guy Memorial Playing Field, the Manea Pit is operated by the Parish Council being the beneficiary of 999-year lease from the Environment Agency. We own a maintain “Dicks Green” at the centre of the village. We also maintain footpaths. Manea Parish also owns and operates almost 120 adopted lampposts. We employ 3 members of staff plus the retention of 2 local tradesmen for minor repairs. The Council also owns the Community Lake and Orchard.

We are continuing to invest in this major asset. We are proposing to enhance the fishing areas, we have invested in a new wind turbine aerator and have restocked the lake with new fish.

The council invested in tools and equipment for volunteers to use for the maintenance and enhancement of the orchard and surrounding areas. Provision continues to be made encourage wildlife to thrive safely within the lake and orchard area. There is now a thriving colony of hedgehogs as well as owls and bats.

Salaries will rise in 2026/2027 due to the increase in national living wage and National Insurance, This also applies to all of our suppliers and contractors.

The main cost pressures that have been addressed in the budget calculations are:

- Streetlight enhancement
- Increased costs of grounds maintenance considering the extra cost of the new football pitches
- Provision of CCTV
- Cemetery maintenance
- Insurance

Previous unidentified spending. (Members resolved at the Council meeting 17th November 2025 (minute M086/25) that the overspends would be funded from the revenue account)

The budget also includes £11,000 for overspend from the 2025/2026 budget, including:

1. New Village Sign
2. Play Area Repairs
3. Gala Power Points
4. Volunteers' tools and equipment
5. Clearance of council owned ditches
6. Replacement of Pavilion doors
7. Christmas Lights power points ("Dicks Green)

These issues were identified by safety inspections and essential repairs.

The forecast expenditure for the year 2026/2027 is £146,474 which is an increase of £16,095. (2025/2026: £130,379)

The Council has forecast an income of £48,940 from services, fees and charges, which is an increase of £8,790. (2025/2026: £39,970)

The forecast deficit for 2026/2027 is estimated to be £97,500, to be funded by precept.

The tax base (number of houses) has increased by 10 to 941.

It is recommended that the 2026/2027 precept will be £103.61 for a "Band D" property. This is an increase of £6.61 per annum. (Note: 70% of properties are lower than "Band D")

Table 1: Council Precept

2025/2026	£90400	£97.00
2026/2027	£97500	£103.61

Table 2: Total increase

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Annual	4.41	5.15	5.87	6.61	7.34	8.07	8.80	9.53
Monthly	0.36	0.43	1.49	0.55	0.62	0.67	0.73	0.79
Weekly	0.8	0.10	0.11	0.125	0.14	0.155	0.17	0.18

Note: 70% of properties in Manea are rated in Band A B C

Table 3: Cumulative precept

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Annual	69.07	80.57	92.10	103.61	115.12	126.63	138.14	149.65
Monthly	5.75	6.71	7.67	8.63	9.59	10.55	11.51	12.47
Weekly	1.33	1.55	1.77	1.99	2.21	2.43	2.65	2.87

I recommend this report for adoption for the financial year 2026/2027

Alan Melton, Clerk and RFO 19th January 2026