



Morton-On-Swale

Parish Council

RFO Report to Parish Council Meeting on 26th Novmber 2025

The following reports are being distributed and scheduled as attachments to the agenda for consideration/approval at the Parish Council Meeting on 26th November 2025.

1. 2025/26 Routine Finance Schedules

- (a) Bank Reconciliation Report
- (b) Income Transactions & Expenditure Transactions Reports
- (c) Accounts Summary and Budgetary Performance
- (d) Cumulative CIL Report 2016-2025

(a) Bank Reconciliation Report

The total of funds held in the Current and Business Money Manager (Savings) Accounts amounts to £19,316.35, an increase of £145 since the July meeting. The balance of £546.58 previously “reserved” for The Friends of Morton-on-Swale has now been fully utilised, while £3,648.80 of the previous CIL balance has also now been allocated. The sum of £2,100 brought forward from 2024/25 which was unspent from that year’s Play Park Maintenance expenditure budget has also now been spent as part-payment for repairs in the Play Park. There is a pending payment of £2,027.33 including VAT for the 3 year support contract for the MVAS equipment, which is due on 8th December.

The green-highlighted section of the report contains details of anticipated receipts and routine outgoings during the next 2-month period, December 2025-January 2026. All the expenditure items listed here, including the staff remuneration figures, were previously included on the Schedule of Routine Expenditure which was received and pre-approved by Council at the January 2025 Council Meeting. As such, and provided also that the invoiced amounts do not exceed the amounts shown here, payment authorisation will be required from only two signatories to the bank mandate, in accordance with Financial Regulations.

This schedule is now currently predicting an end-of-year reserve of just over £8,800, which represents an improvement of around £1,000 on the figure reported in September. However, this prediction is based on an assumption that, now that all of the previously identified Play Park repair work has been carried out, there will be no further Play Park Servicing and Maintenance costs during the remainder of the current financial year to the end of March 2026.

The current estimate of other expenditure during the final two months of the financial year (February-March 2026), is £1,760.71, which includes the costs of a tree safety inspection, as well as hedge cutting, weed control and mole control for which budget provisions totalling £700 currently remain unused.

(b) Income & Expenditure Transaction Details Reports

The second instalment of the Annual Parish Precept (£6,500) was received at the end of September. VAT of £454.16 paid on expenditure during the first half of the financial year was reimbursed in October.

Total routine expenditure for the period was £5,165.48 (including £865.70 recoverable VAT). This includes £813.47 (including £135.58 recoverable VAT) as the cost of recommissioning the VAS machine at the western end of the village. However the developers of the new properties at that location (Mulgrave Properties) have agreed to reimburse the Council for the nett cost of this work (£677.89) and we are currently awaiting receipt of this sum.

A new padlock for the main gate to the Play Park has been purchased at a cost of £30.99 including VAT, as the original padlock has “gone missing”!

All of the Play Park maintenance work that was identified at the September meeting has now been carried out, and contributions towards the costs of this work have been taken from CIL (£424.89 - ie the amount outstanding > 5 years old), and from part of the balance in the ring-fenced Friends of Morton (FoM) account. £2,100 was also used from reserves, being the unused budget from 2024/5 for this work which should have been carried out last year.

The remaining balance from the FoM account has been used to purchase a supply of “no speeding” wheelie bin stickers, to be issued to residents of properties along the main A684 and also in Station Lane.

(c) Accounts Summary (including budgetary performance report)

All income and expenditure to date is in line with budget expectations with the exception of the charges for the three quarterly inspections of the Play Park. Two of these inspections were missed this year (April and October), and Caledonia Play has credited us with the sum of £205 plus VAT for each of these. This credit was offset against Caledonia Play’s bill for repair work in the park which was completed in October. We have received a quote of £585 plus VAT from Synergy Outdoors for the three inspections due in 2026 (payable in January), which is likely to be lower than the renewal quote from Caledonia Play (not yet received). If the Synergy Outdoors quote is accepted there will be an overall saving of £475 against the budget for this item in 2025/6.

As previously reported, there have also been some savings in grass cutting costs (July), bank account management fees and office expenses. £133,63 presently remains unspent of this year’s contingency allowance, although £104 of this is provisionally earmarked to be used to pay for the new official Councillor email accounts which are due to be implemented in January.

(d) Cumulative CIL Summary 2016-2025

This now includes the agreed contribution of £424.89, being the remaining CIL grant from more than 5 years ago, towards the cost of recent Play Park maintenance work. £650 has been paid for the Story-Teller’s Seat which Council has previously agreed would be its contribution to the Ainderby CofE School Reading Project. It also includes a sum of £1689.44 as the cost of the three-year support contract for the MVAS machines, although payment of this is not due until 8th December. This leaves a balance of £7,324.76, of which just £76.61 dates from the grant received in October 2024, and the remainder is from June 2025.

2. Recommended Expenditure Budget and Precept Calculations for 2026/27 (2nd Draft)

The second draft of the expenditure budget for 2026/27 is submitted for consideration and will need to be approved or amended as appropriate at the November Parish Council meeting at which the Precept for next year will also need to be set. The new version incorporates some minor revisions over the first draft, as more up-to-date estimates of some expenditure items have become available. More importantly, however, the new version includes a suggested new provision of £500 for Section 137 funding. The budget also includes a budget of £750 for the Fund-raising & Events Committee to run a Fun Day in the summer, this being the anticipated overall cost of putting on such an event. However this is balanced by forecast income of not less than the same amount, and, as such the effect on the total budget – and hence on the Precept required – is neutral.

The revised budget, allowing for estimated bank interest and other incidental income, is for a total of £13,200 which would mean an increase of just £200 over the 2025/26 figure, and this more modest increase has been made possible by allowing for part of the Play Park Servicing & Maintenance budget to be met from CIL money over the next three years. A Precept of £13,200 would mean an increase in the Parish Council’s share of the annual Council Tax bill for a Band C property of 24p to £47.91, (+ 0.50%). If Council were to opt for a higher Section 137 provision of, say, £1,000, meaning a Precept of £13,700, this would push the Band D charge for the Parish Council’s share of the total Council Tax bill up to £49.72, and increase of £2.05 over this year, or +4.31%.