

From Full Council Meeting Minutes of December 2nd 2025:

'95.2 The Finance and Assets Committee met on November 6th. The committee scrutinised the proposed 26-27 budget based on the 25/26 budget totals and there has been some significant changes to the budget and headings

Key points of discussion included:

All receipts anticipated were identified and if appropriate were ear marked as reserves or included in the working budget.

Doubts exist as to whether some NYC grants will be honoured in 2026-7 as NYC cuts are implemented. Significant funding will be needed for the maintenance and repairs needed to the Grade II listed Fountain next year, similarly the Butter market cobbles and the car-park needs maintenance that has not been achieved in 2025-6.

Changes to, and increases to, staffing costs will impact on the budget after the appointment of a new Deputy Clerk.

The Committee decided that advertising fees from listings on the town council website are to be reintroduced to raise funds, £50.00 per ad per year will be the fee.

The Allotments rent is to be increased by 5% to £771.00

The rent for the field on Chapel Hill will increase £1,100.00 upon the suggestion of the land agent involved.

In a review of the flat rental at Hall Square it was decided to keep the rent the same as last year due to all the work that the tenants have had to endure.

Following agreement of the proposed 2026-7 budget figures the committee then discussed the total Precept figure to be requested from North Yorkshire Council (NYC). The discussions shared focused on identifying a Precept request that covered the expected costs of the town council budget whilst remaining fair and prudent to the residents.

It was agreed the figure of £112,000 would be recommended to Full Council. The amount will unfortunately represent a small annual increase of £5.48 for residents for 2026/27. The increase is necessary to cover increased prices, increased responsibilities of the town council following Unitary organisation changes to the Local authority, with associated cuts. The aim of the chosen precept request was to enable the town council to maintain services, to support projects that are important to the town, whilst keeping costs closely monitored and scrutinised.

*The committee **resolved** to adopt the proposed budget forecasted prepared for 2026-7.*

*The committee **resolved** to recommend the town council Precept Request for 2026-7 should be £112,000.'*