



17 March 2023

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Response

Query

On 16 March 2023, the following request was made of Moulton Parish Council:

- 1. What is the intended use of an 86" TV and trolley that you spent £3,910 of the public's money on?*
- 2. What is the reason you chose to spend so much on it and why does it need to be so big?*
- 3. What other options were considered and what is the rationale that is was the best use of public money? What proof do you have that this is the best value for money for using the parish council tax?*
- 4. What justification do you have for raising the parish council tax by over 13% this year? Why is it above inflation?*
- 5. Can I have a list of all of the planned expenditures for the coming year that justify the 13% increase, highlighting where these planned expenditures themselves have risen by 13%*

Response

1. Moulton Parish Council have not purchased an 86" television, a trolley or spent £3,910 on any similar equipment.
2. Moulton Parish Council have not purchased such equipment.
3. Moulton Parish Council have not purchased such equipment.
4. Moulton Parish Council have frozen their parish precept this year, resulting in a reduction for households across our community. We published this on our website at <https://moultonpc.org.uk/2023-24-parish-precept-frozen/>
5. Moulton Parish Council set their 2023/24 budget in January 2023, and the following items in our budget have increased by 13% or greater, along with the rationale provided in the briefing note to councillors:
 - a) Clerks Pension – NALC recommend that pension provision is around 23% of the base salary with the pension scheme our clerk is entitled to use, so this has now been increased in to the budget to reflect this recommendation.
 - b) Clerk Training and Councillor Training - Increases in the training budget to accommodate our new clerk, and the expected influx of new councillors.

- c) Insurance – Increased to match the expected charge level
- d) Community Champion – This was a new budgetary entry in 2023/24 and reflects the costs encountered for the award given to the Community Champion.
- e) MPFT Contract Gardening – Increased to match the expected charges.
- f) MUGA Lights – Increased to match the energy costs the council pays.
- g) Car Park (Ear Marked Reserves) – Increased to match the additional costs of resurfacing our car park, to be completed once the nearby building work has finished.

The council approved the complete budget, which included a freeze on the precept. The above increases were matched with equivalent reduction on spending in other areas from 2022/23.