Finance Working Group 7 May 2026.

Report to Councill following meeting to consider heading over budget reported in Q4 2025-26.

Over budget.

1. Payroll 117% – due to pay increase mid-year.
2. Administration 146% – bank charges were not in the budget for 2025/26.
3. Aymestrey Matters printing 114% – five editions paid for during this financial year.
4. Lengthsman Scheme 2,710% Misleading – reimbursed by Herefordshire Council. Budget £1,374, payments £38,229.88, £16,293.29 of which relate to 2024/25. Payments also include Drainage & PROW Grants. Separate budget headings are **recommended** for 2026/27.

1. Payroll. New hourly rate and number of hours included in budget for 2026/27, with an uplift of 4%. This is an estimate for potential increase in hourly rate for 2026/27. National offer of 3.3% was rejected by UNISON and Unite. Consultation closes on 22 May.
   No adjustment recommended.

2. Administration. Increase budget for
   a. Bank fees. Up from £72 to £84. £12 increase.
   b. Mileage. £206.98 claimed in 2025/26. £180 in the budget. Increase by £30?

   No adjustment recommended.

3. Printing – Aymestrey Matters.
   Figures based on budget for 2025/26 plus 5%.
   Budget 2025/26 was £1,366.20, actual spend (before contributions from Parish Hall and Parochial Church Council) £1,217.60.
   Budget for 2026/27 is £1,434.51 + £40 for postage.
   No adjustment recommended.

4. Lengthsman. Separate budget headings set up for
   Lengthsman payments a) from the precept, and b) from Herefordshire Council grants.
   Headings for
   Drainage Grant
   Public Rights of Way Grant, and
   Public Rights of Way paid from the precept.
   No further action needed.

Maggie Brown. RFO. 7 May 2026.