CONINGSBY TOWN COUNCIL

Request for Information Decision

Date of request: 08/11/2026

Date of decision: 10/11/2026

Request:

I request that you provide the following information electronically to me at the following email address [redacted]

Formal Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Coningsby Town Council Council.

income 26/27 £313,976

Admin figure £126,421

Combined maintenance £107,455

The Admin figure of £126,421 is 40% of the total income for the year 26/27. I request an item by item breakdown of the Admin figure as presented by the Town Council. This is my third attempt to obtain this information, two earlier attempts rejected by the Town Clerk.

Decision:

In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you are advised that Coningsby Town Council does hold information that falls within the description specified in your request.

1. The information is held by the Parish Council. It is exempt from disclosure under S.21 Information accessible to applicant by other means. The information is available on the council's website.
2. I have also attached a copy of notes from the meeting held in the council office on the 13th July 2026.

Your right of appeal:

If you have any queries regarding this decision, please contact the Clerk to the Town Council.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision (within 40 days of this decision notice) you should write to:

Coningsby Town Council, Town Office, Silver Street, Coningsby, LN44SG

Email address: clerk@coningsbytowncouncil.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint / the Internal Review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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Meeting which took place with Mr. Duguid on Monday 13th July 2026 at 1pm.

Present Cllr Moorhouse, Clerk Sarah Kulwicki, Assistant Clerk Sayde Lea and [redacted]

[redacted] arrived at 12:52pm

Cllr Moorhouse informed the member of public when they arrived that he would be working during this meeting and if his phone rang, he would need to answer it but would allow extra time at the end of the meeting to ensure he had his full 45minute allowance.

Cllr Moorhouse took two calls during this meeting one at 12:53 which lasted 1 minute est 30 second duration for each call, as he had to make an outgoing call as well and one at 14:04 which lasted 36 seconds.

[redacted] commenced the meeting and wanted answers to 3 specific questions.

1. Who approved the 18.9% increase. Cllr Moorhouse told him that this was a full council decision. (full council being Coningsby Town Council)
2. Who approved the expenditure for the raised pitch fencing? Cllr Moorhouse informed him that this was approve by full council.
3. What was the £30,000 increase for on the budget. Please see supporting information i. This was provided to [redacted] and explained fully by Cllr Moorhouse. [redacted] accepted that if the works on the cemetery were needed a 4.29% increase is reasonable.

Other points raised:

- 6/7 emails – Told repeating the same questions and feels he has not had a direct answer. Cllr Moorhouse apologised for this and explained that his questions has been answered vis the budget document available. The clerk informed him that the council is not responsible for how he interprets a document.
- 18.9% – Cllr Moorhouse told him that the council's budget is to meet its commitments and obligations the Council does not want and not go into debt and have reserves if needed. Work at the cemetery being the reason for the increase (£25,000 for this work, see item i)
- [redacted] made enquires to item of expenditure on the budget which were the
  a) Alan Barker rabbit fence which he stated is a waste of money and a health and safety risk for footballers when they start playing on the field as it is something they can crash into. Cllr Moorhouse told him that they will do their own risk assessments and the pitch will meet FA standards in order to be played on. Cllr Moorhouse told him that lots of people use the Alan Baker including [redacted] it is great benefit to the community and for the Youth

group, people's mental health, walking football and dog walkers. The council will continue to maintain and look after this site for all. [redacted] did not think the fencing was effective for pest control of that area. The clerk informed him that the council has chosen a pest control contractor for the rabbits are works are being scheduled to treat the problem the fencing is a preventative measure, not a solution.

b) Skate Park, zip line and maintenance is £10,000 cost, why? He also asked why the skate park allowance of £60,000.00. The clerk told him that the skate park project was grant funded for a total of £60,000 in 2024-2025 so not relevant to the budget for 2026-2027. She also pointed out that the amount put aside in this collum is £7,500.00 not £10,000.

c) Cllr Moorhouse told him that the Facebook comments on a recent group indicate that not all members of the parish do agree with him as he claimed. There are 7500 people on the site only 22 comments have been made. 3 of them being responses from [redacted]

d) Cllr Moorhouse provided [redacted] with supporting document ii which shows ELDC precept rates for the largest amounts applied for. Coningsby being the 7th Largest amount applied for in ELDC.

e) [redacted] asked why the Concrete base has been there unused for 15months. Cllr Moorhouse told him that Coningsby football club have obtained the container, and it is on site, but they had 3 years under the planning application which enabled them to apply for funding and get the best price.

f) Council wages increase and the Assistant clerk – [redacted] stated that this is a waste of money. The office is never open and there is not a lot of work to do. Cllr Moorhouse asked him if Coningsby had grown in size since he moved here? [redacted] agreed it has grown massively; more houses are being built all the time. Cllr Moorhouse told him that this means more work, the council has 5 members of staff, various assets one of these being a cemetery, the office may not be open all the time but when dealing with the bereaved he would not want people walking in and out as they see fit on sensitive matters. The clerk is also entitled to work from home. [redacted] asked when the office is open. Cllr Moorhouse told him on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He informed him that Coningsby is very fortunate to have a council office which is open to the public as other local town and parishes do not have this facility available to them. (Please not this is not correct the council office in open to the public on Monday and Wednesday mornings)

g) [redacted] asked that the council respond faster in the future to answer the questions he has. Cllr Moorhouse informed him that his statement has been taken on board.

h) He asked why the council spent £40,000 on insurance. The clerk informed him that this was income not expenditure for the MUGA surfacing which was damaged during storm Babet.

i) [redacted] asked why £500 is being spent of PAT testing and where for. The clerk told him there are 3 sites which require this as well as all the Christmas lighting. She told him that the council are looking to do this in house and get staff trained but this will only start to save money after 3 years once training has been paid for.

j) He stated that the CCTV is a waste of time as no one can look at it. – The clerk informed him that if there is a police and crime reference number the police can access the footage but a date and time if needed for each incident. [redacted] asked [redacted] for footage before when he found drug paraphernalia on the field and stated it was useless as she couldn't even get the footage. The clerk informed him that this should have been reported to the police for them to deal with the council covers the costs of the maintenance contract for the CCTV as well as insurance and any additional cameras needed.

Meeting finished at 1:47pm

Provided with the following support information:

Supporting info i)

The precept

2025-2026 - £150,150

2026-2027 - £182,155 minus the £25,000 for cemetery maintenance is £157,155

The percent difference is approximately 4.29%.

So without the allowance for the cemetery this is a reasonable percentage.

1. **Calculate the absolute difference**: |£157,155 - £150,150| = £7,005.
2. **Average the two values**: (£150,150 + £157,155) / 2 = £153,750.
3. **Divide the absolute difference by the average**: (£7,005 / £153,750) × 100 = **4.29 %.**
   Thus, the percent difference is approximately **4.29%**.
   This calculation shows how much the second number differs from the first when expressed as a percentage.

PRECEPT - £182,155.19

DIVIDED BY TAX BASE - 1,333

BAND D = £136.65

Supporting info ii)



Parish/Town Council	A	Chapel St Leonards	Coningsby	Horncastle	Louth	Mablethorpe & Sutton	Skegness	Spilsby
Administration - Salaries and associated overheads	£20410.00	£175188.71	£114,422.00	£189,260.00	£115,113.74	£220,038.00	£220,134.00	£42,500.00
Public property - Provision and maintenance of public property, allotments, maintenance of burial grounds, CCTV	£241,236.00	£227,399.74	£123,455.00	£128,775.00	£257,589.00	£548,571.00	£678,347.00	£86,400.00
Publicity - Public notices, advertising, Conference, Council newsletter, Town guides, illuminations	£0.00	£758.15	£4,600.00	£17,950.00	£16,500.00	£56,977.00	£20,000.00	£33,000.00
Section 137 Expenditure & General Power of Competence - Locally determined issues, grants	£9,025.00	£60.00	£6,000.00	£4,280.00	£28,058.00	£81,400.00	£3,000.00	£3,850.00
General - Chair/Mayor expenditure, member allowances, legal fees, other	£5,750.00	£6,500.00	£3,530.00	£15,406.00	£11,252.00	£51,224.00	£36,250.00	£23,213.00
Total Expenditure	£460,120.00	£416,735.60	£257,977.00	£355,671.00	£428,812.74	£958,210.00	£957,731.00	£188,963.00
Less Income	(£68,600.00)	(£264,321.72)	(£27,820.00)	(£60,475.04)	(£51,722.57)	(£106,750.00)	(£225,445.00)	(£2,454.69)
Offset from Reserves	£0.00	£0.00	(£48,002.81)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£109,775.00	£0.00
Balance to be funded by local Precept	£391,520.00	£152,413.88	£182,154.19	£295,195.96	£377,090.17	£851,460.00	£842,061.00	£186,508.31