

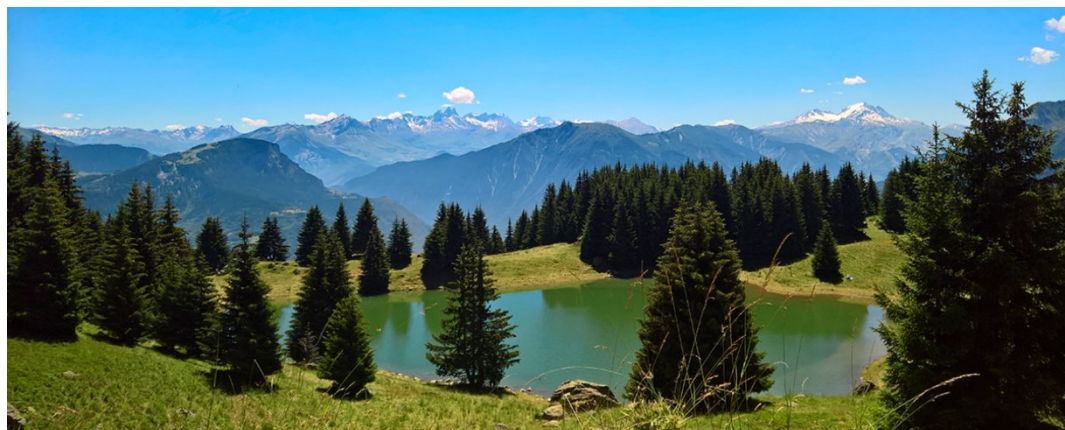


LES BREVES

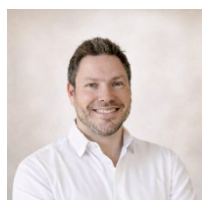
your municipal newsletter • English edition

Saint François Longchamp - Montaimont - Montgellafrey

Autumn 2026



A WORD FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Taimoninches, dear Taimonins, dear Colombines, dear Colombins, dear Inversaires, one and all...

Our summer season got off to a mixed start, with visitor numbers in the first few weeks below our expectations, as in most French tourist areas this year. Fortunately, the rest of the season was much better, and the summer ended on a very positive note: the many events, sporting fixtures and festivities in our villages gave holidaymakers a rich and attractive programme.

I would like to thank most warmly everyone who prepared them and brought them to life: the Tourist Office, the Sports Club, our associations and their volunteers, and the municipal staff. I am thinking in particular of the Bread Festival in Montgellafrey, the Saint François Festival, the 15 August festivities and the agricultural fair in Montaimont, not forgetting all the other events that marked the summer.

These occasions matter well beyond the tourist season: they bring together the residents of our three villages and showcase our history and traditions.

I would also like to say a word about the budget. We came to meet you at public meetings in the three villages to present, with complete transparency, the municipality's financial situation, which is set out in detail opposite and on page 2. It is a delicate one, and it will leave us little room for manoeuvre to take on new projects in the coming months.

We are fully aware of this, and the whole municipal team is committed to overcoming these difficulties and preparing the future of our villages. Wishing you all a good start to the autumn.

Amaury de LACOSTE
Mayor of Saint François Longchamp

...and the budget? (see p. 2)

Our finances: telling it straight

We adopted our first budget six weeks after our election. A municipal budget is normally prepared from the previous autumn onwards, after several months of discussion and checking. Elected on 15 March and formally installed on the 21st, we sent the finalised budget to the members of the Municipal Council on 18 April, for a vote before 30 April. With barely four weeks to work with, we chose caution: roll over the main budget headings, commit to no irreversible spending, and give ourselves time to look closely at the accounts.

That first review was enough to worry us. We therefore asked the Alpine Territories Agency (AGATE) for a full analysis, which was delivered in June and which we presented to you at the public meetings held in the three villages.

Its conclusions confirm our own initial analysis and our concerns. On paper, the accounts balance: the 2025 financial year closed with a surplus of €1.53 million. The municipality's cash position, however – the money actually in the bank to pay our bills – is in a far more worrying state. The accounting surplus is in no way a reserve we can draw on: it consists mainly of book entries with no cash behind them, arising from the settlement of the old toxic loan, of invoices we have not yet managed to collect, and of sums that in reality go to covering the deficits of our ancillary budgets – the Balnéo spa, the Grande Léchère refuge and the water service. On closer inspection, the analysis revealed a cash shortfall of nearly €1.2 million. And that, unfortunately, is the amount we will have to make up.

Turning this situation around will take considerable effort over several years. First, savings on running costs, which we are looking for line by line. Then, choices on investment: some projects will be postponed, others scaled back. But the real answer lies elsewhere. A municipality of five hundred permanent residents that runs the facilities of a ten-thousand-bed resort will not get through on savings alone. We must generate new revenue, and we are working on projects that can bring the municipality lasting income. We are devoting all our energy to this, and we will keep you regularly informed of how things develop. That is a commitment we make to you. The following pages set out the figures in detail. They are sometimes technical, and often rather dry. The municipal team, the council's staff and I remain at your disposal to answer any questions you may have.

Amaury de LACOSTE
Mayor of Saint François Longchamp

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YOUR COUNCILLORS AT WORK: 8 Municipal Working Committees

Formed within the Council, these eight committees examine the files, prepare council decisions and follow up projects. In each issue, two of them will give an overview of their work.

01 Finance and Public Administration Budget, management control, cost savings Relations with public authorities (DGFIP tax office, Prefecture, Region...)	05 Social Life, Sport, Culture and Heritage School, after-school care, CCAS (social services), senior citizens, Library Associations, entertainment, events, heritage
02 Works, Roads & Utilities Roads, water, sewerage, buildings, winter road maintenance	06 Tourism, Resort & Economy Resort operator (concession), tourism development, shops
03 Planning, Housing & Land PLU (local plan), permits, development schemes, EPFL, SAS	07 Foresight & Sustainable Mountain Mountain pastures, farming, ONF (forestry office), firewood rights
04 Communication & Citizen Participation Brèves, Municipal Bulletin, digital tools, Illiwap, public consultations	08 Electoral Roll Review

SPOTLIGHT ON...

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members: Yves de BEL AIR, Mickaël BLANC, Antoine CHAUVET, Jean-Jacques SOULLIÉ, Audrey SPROCK

This quarter's work

- ▶ Preparing the 2026 Budget: drawn up in haste after the elections, it brought to light imbalances that will need careful analysis.
- ▶ Full review of the cash position

Coming up

- ▶ Setting up quarterly budget monitoring to anticipate our revenue and expenditure better, with month-by-month cash tracking.
- ▶ Looking for ways to regain room for manoeuvre and improve how things run
- ▶ Preparing the 2027 Budget

THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Members: Hervé BLÉJEAN, Vincent de BONI, Virginie CARRET, Charlene ROZÉ, Jean-Jacques SOULLIÉ, Martine TRAVADON

This quarter's work

- ▶ Inventory of all the communication tools in our ecosystem
- ▶ Digital tools: preparing the redesign of the municipal website and the childcare centre's website, which do not adequately meet users' needs
- ▶ Print communication: relaunch of the quarterly "Brèves" newsletter (discontinued in 2024) to improve the sharing of general information
- ▶ Preparing a campaign to refurbish the public notice boards

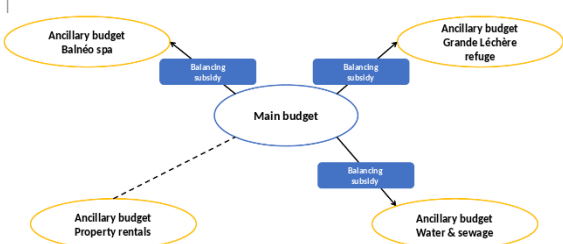
Coming up

- ▶ Website: drafting the specifications, consultations, quotes
- ▶ Preparing the 2026 municipal bulletin (to be published in January)

THE 2026 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

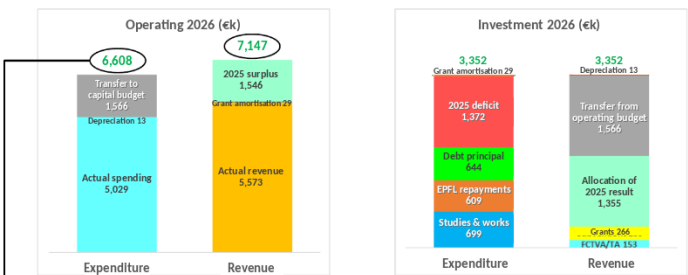
Budget (€ thousands)	2024	2025	Budget 2026
Operating revenue	4,962	5,689	5,573
Operating expenditure	3,925	4,352	5,029
Accounting surplus	1,037	1,337	544
Net savings after debt repayment	185	487	—
Investment carried out	978	841	3,352 (appropriations)
Outstanding debt at 31 Dec	6,615	5,968	—
Years needed to repay all debt	8.0	5.2	prudence threshold: 8

SAINT FRANCOIS LONGCHAMP
BUDGET STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL FLOWS (2025)

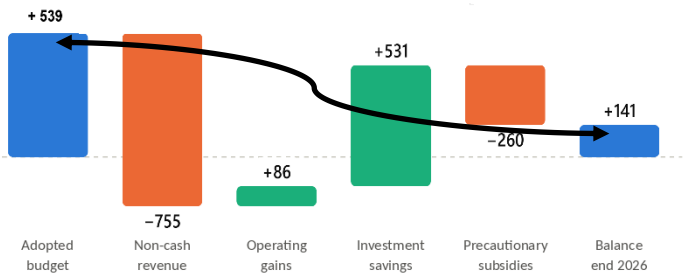


SAINT FRANCOIS LONGCHAMP – MAIN BUDGET

2026 FOCUS: APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2026 BUDGET



1 A 2026 budget adopted with a €539k surplus



The 2026 budget shows a projected surplus of €539,000. But €755,000 of it consists of book entries with no real cash behind them. Without correction, the cash position would be negative at the end of 2026. The decisions taken — €86,000 in new revenue and €531,000 of investment postponed — bring the expected balance back to around €141,000.

Cash: why does €1.5m on the balance sheet leave only €166,000 in the bank?

Of the 2025 closing result, €755,000 is a book entry with no cash behind it (2019 toxic loan), €252,000 is unrecoverable invoices, and €208,000 is tied up in the Balnéo and refuge budgets. That leaves about €166,000 actually available – two weeks of day-to-day spending.

VOICES FROM THE VILLAGES: Three villages, three identities, one municipality.

SAINT-FRANÇOIS-LONGCHAMP: The Inversaires

Dear residents, dear visitors and friends of our resort, from the very start of our term, we wanted to look far ahead: our Planning and Foresight committees are working on a 2050 horizon because, even though the snow was generous this season, climate change remains an inescapable reality to be taken seriously. Skiing remains the heart of our economy, but we need to diversify our activities. Our aim is to develop a welcoming mountain resort that stays lively for more of the year, with year-round jobs and affordable housing for those who work here.

On accommodation, the picture is clear: with the departure of Maeva and then Odalys, we now have only 7,900 commercially let beds, far short of the break-even point (13,500 beds, the capacity for which our water and sewerage networks were sized). This shortage of “warm beds” weighs on the shops and ski lifts, whose income depends largely on visitor numbers.

After the loss of the Lauzière UTN (tourism development permit), the Planning committee is looking for new, sustainable building land, in coordination with the Maurienne SCOT (regional plan). Unusual holiday lodgings are coming soon to Colombes (1,450 m), and La Vigie (1,650 m) will be refurbished.

We are also counting on you, the property owners, to be ambassadors for our resort: an Owners’ Day awaits you on Tuesday 11 August 2026, to discover the new services offered by the Booking Centre.

Finally, the energy upgrading of homes (often rated E, F or G, and soon barred from letting – by 2034 at the latest) is a major undertaking: at the town hall, Nathalie Kauffmann is training to help you through it.

All these challenges, I am convinced, will enable us to strengthen our economy and secure the future of our resort.

MONTGELLAFREY: The Colombins & Colombines

Dear residents and visitors,

it is a great honour to be your new delegated mayor. Thank you to the whole team, former and new councillors alike, whose complementary skills are already making a difference, and thank you to our municipal staff, without whom nothing would be possible.

2026 got off to a bad start with the collapse of the Route des Fées, but we are working on a plan for a lasting reopening: this link is essential for our area. Winter storms also damaged the forest; the technical services and residents worked flat out to reopen the trails this spring. The Grande Rigole work party, revived on 11 June, has secured the water supply to the Grande Lechère lake, which suffered badly from drought this summer! Thank you to the brave souls who got up early!...

Taking the maintenance contracts back in hand has made it easier to open the trails, and a constructive dialogue has been established with our farmers.

In 2026, the priorities are safety (roads, facilities), making the hamlets and the village centre more attractive, and showcasing our artists and craftspeople. Finances are tight, but a little can go a long way! Green tourism is our strength for the future: we must innovate, offer and support. Thank you to the associations that are so active in our village!

We met you on 31 July to keep you up to date with village news. A new date will be proposed in November. So see you soon at this next village council meeting – and every Thursday and Friday morning at the town hall.

Major projects ahead: the Mollaret chairlift, completing the regularisation of road ownership, heritage protection, renovation of the heritage house and municipal buildings, housing and a new PLU (local plan). Attracting and keeping a year-round population will also be a key priority.

As Steve Jobs said, great achievements are always a team effort. Together, let us keep working for our beautiful municipality.

Audrey Sprocq
Delegated Mayor of Montgellafrey

MONTAIMONT: The Taimonins & Taimoninches

Dear residents,

the new municipal team is finding its feet, with new faces, new skills and new projects.

We can count on the commitment of our Montaimont councillors and, above all, on that of the municipal staff and the associations that keep our village alive. The very full programme of summer events is living proof of this.

For Montaimont, there is no shortage of issues! We have already had to reopen municipal roads damaged over the winter: the Col du Chaussy road after the avalanche of 19 February, repairs to the Chemin de la Merdière...

Upkeep of green spaces and paths has been rethought, with better coordination between municipal staff and outside contractors (Jules Espaces Verts, Buet).

For the Montaimont area there is a lot at stake: making the hamlets, forests and hiking trails more attractive to visitors, and the well-being of residents. This means looking after our forests, streams, meadows and mountain pastures, but also the quality of our welcome. The municipal gîtes have been refreshed to meet the Gîtes de France 3-épïs rating, and will also be offered through the Tourist Office Booking Centre.

The village fountains and bachats (traditional water troughs) will be spruced up, and replaced where necessary.

Nathalie Vergne
Delegated Mayor of Montaimont

DIARY FOR THE COMING QUARTER	PRACTICAL INFORMATION
Municipal Council meetings (6pm) 1 October 2026 29 October 2026 26 November 2026 17 December 2026	Medical practice: <i>consultations on Friday 9 October</i> 13–19 Dec: 10am–noon and 2–6pm (*) 20 Dec – 15 Mar: 10am–noon and 2–7pm (*) 16 Mar – 10 Apr: 10am–noon and 2–6pm (*) <i>(*) with cover from noon to 2pm for the ski patrol</i>
AUTUMN EVENTS AND GET-TOGETHERS	
WHOLE MUNICIPALITY 4 October, Montaimont: Senior citizens' lunch 13 December, Saint François: Children's Christmas party SAINT FRANÇOIS LONGCHAMP Weekend of 19 December (provisional): Resort opening	MONTGELLAFREY Thursday 8 October: bread sale at La Chambre market Sunday 11 October: Mass at St Théodule church Saturdays 17, 24 and 31 October: activities at the Grande Léchère refuge

BEFORE THE SNOW: GOOD AUTUMN PRACTICE IN THE MOUNTAINS

The pastures are emptying and the days drawing in: a few customs and courtesies to help you get ready for winter.

- **On the trails:** In the mountains it is an age-old custom to greet everyone you pass; on a narrow path, those climbing have priority. From 25 October, night falls before 5.30pm and frost lurks in the shade: set off early with a head torch, and tell someone where you are going. Emergency: 112.
- **Hunting:** the season is open: respect the "hunt in progress" signs and wear bright colours.
- **Livestock and wildlife:** close gates behind you, walk around enclosures, keep dogs on a lead. This winter, on snowshoes or skis, stay on marked routes: every disturbance costs the black grouse vital reserves.
- **Mushrooms:** by law, on private land they belong to the landowner: family picking only, no rakes; over 10 litres without permission is an offence. Unsure about a mushroom? Ask a pharmacist. Don't trample or kick over mushrooms needlessly: even the "bad" ones are vital to the balance of our forests.
- **At home:** have your chimney swept and boiler serviced before the cold sets in – carbon monoxide can be neither seen nor smelt. Protect meters and pipes from frost; in second homes, turn off and drain the water. Mark low walls and manholes with poles for the snowploughs. Leaves and branches: recycling centre or, better, compost.
- **On the road:** from 1 November to 31 March, 3PMSF tyres (the M+S marking alone is no longer enough), or chains / snow socks / snow grips carried on board, are compulsory throughout Savoie. Please remind your winter guests and tenants. Park without obstructing snow clearing, and do not throw snow back onto the road. On a narrow road, the vehicle going downhill must stop first.
- **Between neighbours:** in the mountains, winter is a shared affair: check on elderly neighbours and people living alone, and leave a spare key with a neighbour if you go away. Snow-clearing alerts: Illiwap (QR code below).

YOUR ONLINE LINKS

Scan the QR codes for direct access to municipal and tourist information.

TOWN HALL WEBSITE	ILLIWAP	TOURIST OFFICE	FACEBOOK
			
mairie-saintfrancoislongchamp.fr <i>Council decisions, procedures</i>	Mobile app <i>Live alerts & news</i>	saintfrancoislongchamp.com <i>Activities, accommodation</i>	official page <i>News in pictures</i>

Useful numbers

SAINT FRANÇOIS LONGCHAMP TOWN HALL Wednesday: 2–5pm, Friday: 9am–noon Tel: +33 479 59 10 79	MONTAIMONT TOWN HALL Tuesday: 1.30–3.30pm, Thursday: 4–6pm Tel: +33 479 56 35 45	MONTGELLAFREY TOWN HALL Monday: 9am–noon, Thursday: 9am–noon and 2–5pm councillors' surgery: Fridays 10am–noon Tel: +33 479 59 44 47	Tourist Office/Booking Centre <i>In season</i> Mon–Fri 9am–noon 2–6pm Saturday and Sunday 9am–6pm <i>Off season</i> Mon–Fri 9am–noon 2–5pm Tel: +33 479 59 10 56
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