

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL: Proposed Budget and Precept for 2017/2018

For presentation at Council Meeting 5th December 2016

1. Introduction

Attached is a proposed budget and precept for 2017/2018 for consideration and adoption by members. It has been prepared by the Clerk in discussion with the Council's Finance Working-group, and is recommended to the Council.

2. Income and Expenditure to Date (5th December 2016)

Income: In addition to the return of VAT for FY 15/16: (£180), two grants have been received this year: i) Police and Crime Commissioner Communities Fund, for Colton and Satterthwaite Parish Councils, towards tackling rural crime and poaching in particular: £6259 (80% received this year, with the remainder next year). ii) Fundraising by the community of Bouth to purchase a defibrillator: £2103.

Expenditure: The figures in italics under the current year 'Forecast Outturn' column represent part or projected payments. The anticipated meant that the anticipated expenditure (£2000) for work under the Action Plan has not occurred during this financial year and has been allocated in this budget for next year.

3. Expected Outcome at 31st March 2017

There is an anticipated under-spend of about £1100 by the year end, due mainly to i) The Community Plan Action Plan project allocation of £2000, of which only £400 was spent, ii) Bouth and Oxen Park defibrillator fund surpluses unspent of £635, to be allocated for replacement parts and first aid courses as they occur and iv) Notice-board cost less than anticipated by £160. This under-spend was offset to some extent by the cost of computer equipment and software licenses for the new Clerk (£670), and the cost of repairs to Bouth playground equipment (£360) above the contingency allowance.

4. Budget for 2017/2018

4.1 Community Plan Action Plan: An allocation of £2000 has been made for the Action Plan projects which will hopefully begin in earnest in FY 17/18.

4.2 Bouth Village Green and Playground: Further costs for repair of the Bouth playground equipment and safety surface are anticipated in the forthcoming year, for which an allocation of £1000 has been made.

4.5 Sources of income: At present our only known income source for next year in addition to the precept and return of VAT, is the balance of the Police and Crime Commissioner Community Fund grant, £1565.

4.6 Estimated budget for 2017/2018: The Council aims to cover its essential costs year on year from the precept (including the Council Tax Support Grant), using other available funding sources for additional activities. The Lengthsman is regarded as an essential cost, since County Highways have withdrawn so many of their routine maintenance work. The budget includes a calculation: 'Surplus/Deficit after Precept', which helps to assess the extent to which the Council is meeting its essential costs year on year. Although this figure shows an apparent deficit of £2431, deducting the cost of 'additional activities' from the budget (e.g. Community Plan Action Plan projects allocation), brings the figure into line with the precept, with some spending from the balance brought forward from last year, but leaving sufficient contingency (see below).

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| Precept and CTS grant: | £ 12771 (CTS: Council Tax Support Grant) |
| Grant income (anticipated): | £ 1565 |
| Return of Vat (estimated): | £ 300 |
| Total income: | £ 14636 |
| | |
| Add balance brought forward | £ 7970 |
| Total | £ 22606 |
| | |
| Less Expenditure | £ 17067 |
| Balance to carry forward | £ 5539 |

4.7 Contingency Fund: The Finance Working Group has reviewed the % contingency to be maintained in the bank account year on year, and **recommends that it be increased to 20% of the precept** (including the grant) year on year, to allow for unexpected essential expenditure (e.g. playground repairs). The balance to carry forward of £5539 adequately covers that level of contingency.

4.8 Precept for 2017/2018:

As the precept is now at a level to cover essential running costs, **the Council is asked to approve the recommendations of the Finance Working Group to maintain the precept (including the CTS grant) this year at its current level of £12771.**

Mandy Lane, Clerk to Council