

West Wycombe Parish Suggested Budget for 2017/18 for discussion by Council

Estimated Running Costs for 2017/2018

Clerks salary, pension	(Staff)		9850
Expenses, Ann Report, stationery/s/ware	(Adm)	1660)	
Auditors	(Adm)	500)	
Chairman's Allowance	(Adm)	100)	
Postage	(Adm)	120)	4130
Insurance	(Adm)	1000)	
Hire of Rooms	(Adm)	250)	
Use of office, energy, broadband	(Adm)	500)	
Web site, telephone line	(Adm)		2300
Training	(Adm)		100
Subscriptions	(Adm)		450
Fete	(Adm)		500
Misc donations	(Adm)		500
S137 expenditure Old Peoples Party/Poppy Wreaths	(Adm)		200
Lighting (maintenance and energy)			4300
Replacement street lighting reserve			8000
Pedestal Playing Field maintenance and rent			3860
Pedestal Playing field equipment			2000
Burial Ground maintenance and refuse and tree works			4740
Allotment maintenance incl water, hedge cutting and scrub clearance			1500
Highways - verge grass cutting/weed killer/salt/dog bins/sign cleaning			6000
Chorley Road project – Transport for Bucks feasibility, MYSI			3800
General reserve			8000
Total			60230
Income:			
Opening balance (includes lighting and general reserve totalling £14,000)			17000
VAT refund			2000
Precept			40500
Council Tax Support Grant			1000
Bucks CC – devolved services			2139
Downley Dynamos			300
Allotment rents			360
Interest			2
Total			63301

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I have worked out our proposed and planned expenditure for the remainder of this financial year. This includes paying for the Cookshall Lane hedge; the maintenance work on the Pedestal Play equipment; the extra maintenance work at the allotments; all the normal monthly payments. At the end of October we had £34143.59 in the bank as the second half of the precept and the majority of the allotment rents have now been paid in. We are due £300 from Downley Dynamos and £500 from Cllr Hayday's Leaders Fund however this is earmarked for the Chorley Road project. With the cheques for November allowed for and the projected expenditure for the remainder of the year we would have a yearend balance of approximately £17,000. Of this theoretically £14,000 is in reserve - £6000 for street lights an £8000 general reserve.

At the time of writing this I am waiting for the annual quotes from Stillman Garden Services Ltd so I am guessing at the moment – she undertakes the work in the allotments, the Pedestal Roundabout verge, Cutty Alley, weed killing on West Wycombe Road and the Pedestal Playing Fields, tidying the Church Lane garden. Acorn Landscaping will keep the same price for next year's grass cutting as will Peter Gomme. John Lawrence prices are known as he priced for the 5 years when we gave him the contract for the burial ground. I have also allowed for the work by Dan Green on both ends of Toweridge Lane. At the moment we do not know what, if anything, will be done about the trees in Rosemary Close but we will have sufficient funds in our reserves to cover this project. We could probably install some heavyweight planters on the entry into West Wycombe on the A40 – I am not sure about our other parish entries as we do not control the grass cutting there.

I have increased the lighting reserve by £2000 and added a further £2000 to the general reserve. At this stage I do not know whether we will get the Council Tax Support grant or what the figure will be – I have reduced this year's figure for now.

I am studying the costing from SSE Contracting for our lighting maintenance and I really think we can save money here and just pay for repairs as and when they occur –it is usually about 5 per year. If we need a new column this is often as a result of an accident and is paid for under our insurance. I am trying to get costing for converting our lighting to LED in three stages – Chorley Road, Bradenham Road and then the rest – we have 57 lights and our reserve figure will go a long way towards this project – LED street lights reduce energy costs by about a third (not as much as domestic costs) but lights are guaranteed for 10 years and reduce light pollution. Bradenham Road lights were installed in 2005 and Chorley Road are pre 1999, the heritage lights vary between pre 1999 and 2004.

We have enough money this year to pay for the BCC survey on MYSI sites and purchase the MYSI but this would obviously reduce our carry over figure but would reduce next year's costs. Cllr Hayday will contribute more to this if he is re-elected in May.

Emptying the dog bins is now costing £700 per annum and I have allowed for one more dog bin but this would add another £140 to the emptying costs.

I am keeping £2000 in the Pedestal Play equipment budget so that we can build up a reserve for replacement equipment.

Telephone and insurance costs have come down through setting up new agreements. Energy costs have been negotiated and these will stand until September 2018.

There should be enough information for the Councillors to start a budget discussion and to decide whether there are any other items we should be considering.

Sharon Henson, Clerk/RFO

3/11/16