

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 30th Nov 2016 of the Committee on Grants, Precept and Budget for 2017/18

In attendance – Councillors :- John Judson , Peter Minihan, Tim Wright and Treasurer Chris Hoy.

The meeting began with an introduction from myself the Treasurer whereby I outlined the available facts figures and recommendations of my preliminary budget to ascertain a realistic reserve balance as at **31st March 2018**. Using the reserve figure the committee were able to consider the inclusion and in some cases removal of certain items from the preliminary budget to determine the Precept with the information available at present. The committee then considered the grant requests to conclude the meeting.

The following minutes detail the recommendations to the Parish Council to be considered for adoption on December 14th 2016 at the full meeting.

BUDGET

The Committee looked at the Treasurers Preliminary Budget and initially agreed with the calculation that reserves at close of business **March 2018** would be **£13,710**.

This figure reflected the following changes to the Budget of 2016/17 that has affected the reserves balance.

To remove from the Budget of 2016/17 -:

Remove Groundworker £1500 until adoption in Spring 2017.

Remove Playground repairs £1000 as no invoices for repairs have been presented and are most unlikely now ownership has passed over.

Decrease Scaur Green Project by £1000 as a Grant of £650 is to be paid and an under spend is now expected. This leaves £1000 plus Grant of £650. At present just £500 spent.

Remove Streetlights £2000 with no concerns shown over the failed light at Croft End and with a possible new build housing estate in location enough lighting will be available for future use.

Against these savings it is expected that VAT reclaim will be reduced by £500 due to the above projects under spend and Fishing Permits are looking to drop by £300.

Inclusion in the 2017/18 Budget -:

Groundworker £3000 is considered adequately funded if more hours are required.

Lazonby Pool Service Agreement £2000 which would be a maximum amount linked to inflation and to be ring fenced depending on the realistic costs incurred and agreed upon with the Pool Committee.

Any present projects not completed would be carried over into a Final Budget to be presented at the Open Meeting in May 2017 when exact reserves at bank are known. This would include Land Registration of £1200, Tree at Croglin Designs £500 and Scaur Green.

The Treasurer recommended a reduction of £850 in the Precept, however the Committee decided to reduce by £1500 based on the above facts and that the Precept had been increased two years ago by £1500 to contribute towards costs for a path from the Pool to the Bridge for a link to Kirkoswald. The Treasurer made the Committee aware that this had been “dead money” earning just pennies in interest and with no projects envisaged for the new financial year and another increase in Council Tax expected well above inflation the reduced precept would show prudence.

Therefore the Precept recommended amount for 2017/18 to be considered is £10350.

GRANTS

Cumbria Association of Local Councils has provided the committee with a detailed list of criteria for Grant selection of which this has benefited the committee in recommending the following allocations. The benchmark guide is available for parishioners to view upon request.

The following are recommended to the committee for consideration.

1 GNAA Applied for £200 **Recommendation £200** **Towards Running Costs**
A vital service to the community, agreed to match last years grant of £200.

2 St Nicholas PCC Applied for £500 Recommendation £200 General Maintenance

This was considered as being a recurring application for the same activity under the selection criteria advised by CALC. However the committee felt that some contribution was necessary to the maintenance of the church grounds.

3 FellRunner Applied for £377 Recommendation £377

Provides an important service to the parishioners. FellRunner have based this grant figure on passenger journey's at 30pence per journey in our parish.

4 Eden Valley Camera Club Applied for £100 Recommendation £ 0 Purchase of Tripod

The Committee decided that this application did not meet the criteria as it was not beneficial to the Parish and some of its inhabitants, it would not promote and develop community activity or engagement. Grants are not available for the maintenance of privately owned property of which it was agreed that this would be the case in question.

5 Lazonbys Got Talent Applied for £60 Recommendation £ 0 Membership Costs for Highlights Touring Scheme.

The Committee decided that this application did not meet the criteria as it was not beneficial to the Parish and some of its inhabitants, it would not promote and develop community activity or engagement. Grants are not available for the maintenance of privately owned property of which it was agreed that this would be the case in question.

6 Lazonby Village Hall Applied for £1500 Recommendation £1500 Digital Audio Equipment/Sound Systems

In agreement that this satisfied all aspects of the criteria. However last years grant of £250 was questioned as this was deemed as a possible recurring project and the Committee agreed that the Chair of LVH be consulted regarding the use of this previous grant. In consultation with the Chair the Treasurer was notified that this had been ring fenced and spent in the figures presented for the current application costing around £20000, of which the Treasurer was satisfied.

7 First Responders Applied for £379 Recommendation £379 Equipment for training and to become operational

In agreement that this satisfied all aspects of the criteria.

In Summary Grants Applied For £3116 Recommendations £2656

If the Councillors are in agreement that the Precept be reduced by £1500 and that the Grants are approved with the revised Preliminary Budget then the expected reserves at the bank in **March 2018** would be **£12670. Our contingency reserve figure is £10000 and as stated in our Financial Regulations any reserve balance between £10k and £12k would give good reason to consider a reduction of the Precept.**

Chris Hoy
Treasurer
30.11.2016