

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 27th Nov 2014
of the Lazonby Parish Council Finance & Budget Committee
for 2015/16

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

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 Unspecified Amount Recommendation £200

A vital service to the community, agreed to match last years grant of £200.

2 St Nicholas PCC Applied for £500 Recommendation £200 Graveyard 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 £362 Recommendation £362

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

4 Lazonby School Applied for £250 Recommendation £250 Upgrade to facilities in School hall

The application met the criteria and would be in the interest of school and local community users.

5 Eden Valley Camera Club Applied for £200 Recommendation £200 Purchase of Equipment

The club has just started up and has a good membership that the purchase of photographic equipment will promote and develop community activity and engagement for the present and future.

In Summary Grants Applied For £1512 Recommendations £1212

Treasurers Review

Since I have been Treasurer the amount of grant application and capital project expenditure has diminished slowly and therefore at some stage it may possibly be necessary to reduce the Precept if this trend continues beyond 2015/16. In order to help clearly define such a possibility that could also work in the opposite if expenditure increased I would like to recommend to the committee the introduction of a threshold amount for a contingency reserve. My proposal would be for an amount of £10k as a benchmark to consider future Precept levels and be written into our Financial Regs. This would be adequate cover for any unexpected expense during the year. Should the budget project the yearend reserves in excess of £10k then consideration should be given to reduce the Precept by an agreed yet sensible amount. For example a reserve of £12k would trigger this consideration. I would lock in a realistic buffer of £2k as a safety margin before any implementation, ie £10-12k. Initial projections for reserves at yearend 2015/16 show £11,528 thus between the £10-12k margin would indicate no necessary change to the Precept level. Below £10k and

an increase would be considered. This would make the process transparent for the councillors and parishioners.

Budget

The committee looked at the Treasurers Preliminary Budget and initially agreed that with the prediction that reserves at close of business March 2016 the balance held would be £11,528. If the committee adopted the proposal for a threshold contingency reserve then a recommendation was made to maintain the Precept at £10,350 for 2015/16.

The Treasurer had made provision for additional expenditure on Election costs £1k, Tree works £1k, Playground (possible extra insurance/maintenance) £1k and Street Lighting (part payment) £3k. The Neighbourhood Plan was considered to be funded by grants although enough slack was built into the budget to accommodate some cost.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with a decision to recommend Grants of £1,212 and a Precept of £10,350.

UPDATE

The following morning after Virginia Minihan and John Judson had met Cumbria County Council on site at the proposed path to Lazonby Bridge further costings were gathered that could possibly change the original recommendation to the committee for the Precept.

After consultation with the Treasurer, it was agreed that the new information be submitted to the meeting on Weds 3rd Dec for further scrutiny to determine an outcome in setting the Precept.

Chris Hoy
Treasurer

29.11.2014