

Briefing Note

Budget 2017/2018

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Parish Council is required to agree a budget for the coming year and make application to Cornwall Council to collect a precept before 31 December 2016. Because we do not hold a public meeting in December, councillors are asked to approve a budget and precept application at their meeting on 17 November. This briefing note sets out the background to the budget and recommends that the council support a precept that is unchanged from 2016/2017.

2.0 THE ISSUES

2.1 I have already sent you a Briefing Note reviewing our six months outturn to September 2016, and this has been discussed at the last public meeting.

Expenditure is currently running ahead of what was planned for at this time of the year. Part of this increase is due to items that we have received some refund on: £1250 paid out to repair the roof of the Pump House at Doddycross was covered by a grant of £625 from Cllr Phil Seeva. £864 paid out to purchase a memorial bench on behalf of a resident was completely covered by a donation, and £761 to acquire a new laptop for the Clerk had already been covered by a grant of £700 from Cornwall Council in the previous financial year. Best estimates of what our end of year expenditure might be show that by deducting these items, our actual expenses will be very close to the budget.

2.2 Our income during the year is expected to be the same as we budgeted. The parish receives funding from Cornwall Council as a collecting body for the precept we calculate, and Council Tax Support (CTS) from central government. We also receive refunds from HMRC for VAT that has been paid out, and several small amounts from football pitch fees and licences from the cottages on the village green.

2.3 In calculating a budget for 2017/2018, your Clerk has examined all the costs incurred to date and made provision for changes, as well as including items that we may be liable for in the future. At the same time, I have also examined our income and made adjustments for the reduction in CTS and non-recurring income.

2.3 The first calculation for a budget that takes account of all these factors is £22,000 (£1788 higher than the current year). We are still uncertain if the Lengthsmans Scheme will go ahead and what other costs might be incurred with progressing the Neighbourhood Plan, I recommend a budget and precept application of £25,168 which is the same as the current year.

3.0 OPTIONS

3.1 To accept the budget calculation of £22,00 with limited provision for unexpected items. Accepting this figure as a budget and precept will potentially lead to further demands in the council's contingency fund.

3.2 To accept the budget calculation of £22,00 but support the same precept as the current year (£25,168) that will allow a surplus of funds to be available for items we can identify but cannot cost at the moment.

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