

# HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL

## BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2019/20

### Introduction

Members will note from the current financial summary that at present a large balance remains however this year was always meant to be one of reserve building and a significant amount of expenditure remains for the remaining months of the financial year 2018/19. Nevertheless, the financial position of the Council now appears secure and a look towards increasing project expenditure in the forthcoming year can be made.

### Expected end of year outcome to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

The bank balance is currently £7,511. The only income anticipated is the VAT return, currently estimated at only £20 (contingent upon expenditure still to be made) so this will likely be deferred until a future year when a more significant claim can be made (we have a three year claims limit so there is ample time). No other income is expected.

Expenditure still to be made and worthy of discussion includes:

- Donations to Church, Village Hall and Social Committee £500 budgeted for each. However all groups have been informed that a donation will only be payable if the Windfarm grant fund will not support their project or if the project is so great it requires additional expenditure. Any application is therefore dependent upon this and hence applications will likely only be considered in January or March.
- Donation to Great North Air Ambulance - £200 budgeted. To be considered at the November meeting.
- Website –£76 for 2018/19. (The £300 remains in the bank account for expenditure on the website from 2 years ago, not yet paid and not likely to be; no provision is made for the monies never invoiced or accounted for and if a bill arrived for these they would need taken out of the contingency or reserves).
- The Gill – £195 for an edition to go out shortly. It is not envisaged there will be another produced until late March/April, thereby falling into 2019/20 budget. It would appear that based on this and last year that we have reduced to two editions per year. This is realistic due not only on increased print/postage costs but also on the general reduction in Parish Council activity due to a tightening of budgets all round.
- £25 approximately on postages and stationary. This is variable but should not be significantly different, although printer ink may be required which is not cheap.
- £280 budgeted for grass cutting and due to be paid at this November meeting.

Other expenditure will be on the Clerks salary. Should there be no unexpected further expenditure the year-end balance will be approx. £3,922. Between three and twelve months expenditure is to be held in reserve; based upon the actual expenditure in 2017/18 this would be £1,433 as a minimum which means the Council is sitting in a healthy position financially.

## Budget for 2019/20

A project budget has been set at £750. This is to cover any suitable project in the Parish and would be combined with grant applications if required. Suitable ideas are requested from Councillors as to what this could be put towards. No budget allocation has been made for broadband again.

A maintenance budget needs to be considered and a token figure of £100 has been included for any needs that may arise, be it on signage, defibrillator or notice boards etc. This is in addition to the £150 budgeted for the maintenance of the Sand Hole Common Land/crossroads grass, which includes allowance for the grass at the crossroads to be removed.

No budget has been allowed for the external audit due to the reduced expenditure; monies remain budgeted for insurance and CALC subscriptions, with small increases allowed for both. With regards to other administrative costs, salary costs are expected to rise nationally, likely to be 2% if previous increases are representative. Although a change in salary banding is anticipated nationally this should have little effect on the budget necessary. A small increase in expenses has also been made to allow for contribution towards the Clerk's office phone line and Society of Local Council Clerk's membership. Data protection arrangements have changed but the budget has remained static at £35 due to the reduction allowed for paying by direct debit. A budget of £100 is expected to cover the stationary and postage costs with a token £100 equipment budget in case of any need.

The cost of the Gill has been budgeted for but only allowing for two editions over the year; £400 should be adequate for this purpose.

The grant fund for Community projects has been set for all groups at £1,700. Amounts have been pre-allocated to the regular community groups (PCC £500, Parish Hall £500, Social Committee £500). These donations would be payable only after confirmation that the Hallburn grant fund had been applied for in the first instance again. The amount budgeted for the Great North Air Ambulance remains at £200. Additional donation(s) would be available of up to £200 for either other community groups or for re-allocation to top up the above amounts. Any other donations would need to be taken from the increased contingency budget of £500 or from the £750 project budget if not spent.

## Income expected for 2019/20

The expected income is:-

Carry forward:	£3,922
Precept/CTRS Grant	£7,000
The Gill Adverts	£0
VAT	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,922</b>

A small amount of additional VAT reclaim money may also be received but this has not been included in the expenditure either.

## **Budget Proposal for 2019/20**

The following reflects comments above:-

Clerk's salary	£3,365
Administration	£451
The Gill	£400
Web site	£76
Maintenance	£250
Insurance	£230
Projects	£750
Grants Fund	£1,900
Contingency	£500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,922</b>

**Income will exceed the proposed budget by an amount of £3,000 leaving this amount in reserve.** The amount is well within the minimum reserve amount and leaves the Council in a healthy financial position.

### **Precept for 2019/20**

If the above budget is accepted there would appear no need to increase the precept for the forthcoming financial year. The Clerk therefore recommends that the precept is maintained at its current level of £7,000.

### **Recommendations**

The Council is asked to consider the following recommendations: -

**The budget for 2019/20 be £7,922**

**The Precept for 2019/20 be £7,000.**

Sarah Kyle  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
12.11.18