

## Budget and Precept 2021/22

A Report by the Clerk/RFO

### **Proposed Budget for 2021/22 and Implications for Precept**

This report needs to be read alongside the attached detailed budget and precept proposals for 2021/22

The attached gives the anticipated outturn for 2020/21 and the proposed budget for 2021/22. The proposed budget for 2021/22 will enable the Parish Council to maintain service levels as they are and to meet its currently known commitments and liabilities in 2021/22 without increasing the Precept in these difficult and challenging times.

### **Local Members and Identified Ward Priorities**

The budget includes for Ward priorities identified by local Members and notified to the Clerk/RFO.

The budget includes £350 in the budget line for capital items for purchase and installation of a bench where the old phone box was at BP Garage, Corby Hill. The Clerk/RFO believes that permission would be needed from Cumbria County Council because she understands this is still part of Highway but will be advised. If not, permission (she thinks) would be needed from Roadlink 69 but would take advice.

Reserves (£2500.00) have been earmarked to replace the noticeboard and bench at Townhead entrance to Hayton Woods in 2021/22. Members will recall that it was identified they would not survive works to improve and repair the stone wall by the landowner. The City Council has still not responded about serving a notice on the landowner. The Clerk has chased progress. The Clerk is wondering if it is worth contacting the Forestry Commission as she understands the landowner may be receiving a grant from them which includes for public access.

£11,000 has also been earmarked from reserves for any contribution required to make up shortfall in grants for Talkin Village Hall Roof.

A local Member has also identified that the cobbled lane at Hayton is still in need of maintenance and has asked this be considered as part of the 2021/22 budget. The Clerk recalls this was reported to Highways some time ago but understands no action has been taken. The Member has advised that his estimate is that this could cost between £600-800. The same Member has identified some footpaths and kissing gates that need repair and maintenance. The Clerk is aware that there are also concerns about the footpath that goes from A69 through Hurley Woods. The Clerk will work with local Members to firm up a list of sites and will then talk with City Councillor about a grant in 2021/22 towards the costs. The Clerk has earmarked £2000 from reserves for cobbles, footpaths and kissing gate repairs and maintenance.

## **Reserves**

The Council's reserves are currently budgeted at £11306.00 which gives surety that any contingencies/unforeseen expenditure should be affordable.

## **Risk Management**

The Council will continue to actively manage risk during 2020/21 – to date the Parish Council has had the works recommended (in the survey of significant trees managed and maintained by Parish Council) undertaken by grounds maintenance contractors and repairs carried out to noticeboards. A bus shelter has been subject to vandalism and another bus shelter damaged by an unidentified vehicle. These have been repaired or replaced and subject to successful insurance claims. The Clerk has just been advised of further damage to a bus shelter and is seeking quotes for repair/replacement. These incidents have all been reported to the Police.

## **Challenging times with Unprecedented Uncertainty**

Coronavirus and lockdowns have made it a challenging time. Some planned activity has had to be delayed and reserves will need to be earmarked to enable that activity to take place in 2021/22. This includes any further sites identified for tree planting in the Parish. The reserves not earmarked would enable the Parish Council to cover its expenses for up 4.5 months and provide contingency for unforeseeable expenses.

The Council is asked whether **to resolve to:**

1. Approve the proposed budget for 2021/22
2. Authorise the Chairman to sign the confirmation that the Parish Council agreed a Precept of £16,500.00 for the year commencing 1 April 2021.

Hazel R Broatch  
Clerk/RFO