

Misterton with Walcote Parish Council 2017-2018 Budget Statement

In preparing the budget, for the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, the Council had the following aspirations in mind:

- To meet the financial obligations of the Council
- To carry out those activities, which it was considered would improve the quality of the local environment
- To assist village organisations and thereby help to improve community cohesion

The following points were noted.

1. The Precept requirement for 2017-2018 is £17,543.00
2. The Tax Base Figure based on the number of Band D equivalent properties for 2017-2018 is £197.20.
3. The budgeted Parish Precept is £88.96 per Band D property. This is a 31.0% or £21.05 increase in Council Tax.
4. Harborough District Council has not provided a Council Tax Support grant for 2017-2018.
5. NALC (the National Association of Local Councils) recommend that Parish Councils keep General Reserves at a level of between 3 and 6 month's precept (i.e. between £1,461 and £8,771). The Parish Council's level of General Reserves has become depleted with larger than expected expenditure on such items as the transfer of the web-site. Therefore, to maintain adequate financial reserves, the Council has allocated £2,000 under 'General Reserves'. This forms part of a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies.
6. The Council has added a further £200 towards the cost of replacing the Clerk's laptop. There is now £400 in earmarked funds towards this. The final £200 will be added from the budget in 2018/19.
7. The Council has added a further £100 to the budget for elections. There is now £200 in earmarked funds towards this. The Council will continue to add £100 a year until the next Parish Council elections in 2019 to cover election expenses.
8. The Council is considering producing a Neighbourhood Plan. This is likely to increase the workload for the clerk. It is anticipated that this would be an extra 2.5 hours per month. The Council has also budgeted for any unforeseen additional work that the clerk may be required to undertake.
9. Harborough District Council transferred ownership of South Kilworth Road Field to the Parish Council in May 2016. It was thought prudent to add £1,000 to the budget to cover any legal fees associated with tenancy agreements.
10. The Urban Grass Cutting Contribution from Leicestershire County Council for the 2017 grass cutting season (from March to October) is £427.50. This is a shortfall on the actual cost of the cutting.