

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: ALL IMPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

From: Clerk to the Council, Angela Young  
(On behalf of Precept Committee Cllrs D Payne, Silk, Gooden,  
Abdullah)

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005

### **2005 / 06 PRECEPT – Recommended at £72,000**

Please find attached the proposal resulting from the Precept meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The tax base estimate supplied by South Cambs for Impington this year amounts to 1501 (same as last year). County Council seem to be looking at a 4% increase in their Council tax (an extra £30 p.a. on Band D), with SCDC set to be 100% (£70), Fire & Rescue 4.9% and the Constabulary yet to be announced.

At the meeting, discussion took place on what to spend in the coming year, including commitments already made (some of which unexpected i.e. The Copse and share of the Rec Ground freehold), and how to finance it. It was acknowledged this was the most challenging budget for many years

Main points arising:

- Future of Impington south of the A14 was an issue, and strategies involved
- Purchase of freehold of Recreation ground by the Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Committee, and the freehold of The Copse by Impington Parish Council. A budget of £1,000 for Open Spaces was included to cover any spend required at The Copse following acquisition of the freehold. A legal budget of £800 this year, and £500 next year had been included, King & Co having confirmed the fees for The Copse would be up to £600. The legal position regarding care of trees in the ownership of HFC Holdings Co was discussed. Investigation would be required
- Financing of the parish office agreed at the rear of the new Pavilion
- Youth Initiatives figures had been supplied by the Youth Committee. Committee request that any outstanding budget be carried forward as a significant amount of grant moneys was involved. Precept Committee were happy to recommend this, as previous years. All payments for Youth now carried through Impington Parish Council, with Histon Parish Council paying in their precept budget amount to fund the dedicated account
- The Committee were mindful that the Precept had been set at £70,000 last year
- Clerk to write to Mr Collingwood re disappointment with work on the village sign which showed signs of peeling on bottom left hand corner. No budget was set for this item
- Cost of replacement of bus shelter in Milton Road (highlighted in 3 year plan) was deleted for consideration again next year
- Future plans of the Millennium Halls Limited group. Uncertainty had arisen on whether this project would go forward at this stage

The Committee decided that they felt the cost of purchase of the freehold of the Recreation Ground should be looked at over the long term, and paid for by all who would benefit, including those who would be using it 25 years in the future. Following full discussion of options available for the Council, it was agreed to recommend that the whole cost of purchasing the recreation ground (£37,000 for Impington Parish Council) be put on loan via the Public Works Loan Board. There is therefore an element of £4,500 in the payments for the Recreation Ground next year, to cover repayments for both the freehold purchase and the provision of the parish office at the rear of the pavilion (£60,000 shared between Histon and Impington PCs). It was not known how Histon Parish Council were planning to finance the cost, but Precept Committee recommend that Impington Parish Council offer to apply for the loan required, on behalf of the 2 Councils, with Histon Parish Council to make any application for the development costs in due course. Each Council then to re-imburse annual interest payments monthly, by agreement. The cost of the Copse (£15,000) would be financed from reserves. This would ensure reserves were not depleted to beyond Audit recommended levels. Once the costs required for the development to the ground were known (with £250,000 currently having been agreed), decisions could be made on whether that was all on loan, or some from reserves. Cllr Davies had confirmed that the amount requested via the Recreation ground was likely to be sufficient to cover the first year's payments on any loan. Therefore no additional amount is included in the precept figures.

It was agreed to recommend that the items currently ringfenced, £12,500 for Millennium halls, and £500 for the Church Wall be "unringfenced" and put in as earmarked to next year's budgets (Special Projects). An additional amount from last year's budget and a new amount from this year's figures would take the budget for the Millennium Halls up to £24,000 for 2005-06. This would enable the amount to be spent on alternative Special Projects were the Halls group to announce closure of the efforts this year, or to return to reserves. There was now no amount formally ringfenced in the accounts, but the amount of £17,891 was in capital reserves, being for up-keep of amenity land at Ambrose Way and Clay Close Lane.

A Precept of £72,000 would represent approx a 3% rise on last year, but would enable the Council to retain some for replenishment of reserves following purchase of the Copse.

Projected spend for next year is £95,680 and estimated reserves stand at £66,717. The Precept Committee have unanimously proposed **a £72,000 Precept** request for 2005-06. A possible precept of £70,000 was also considered. This would keep estimated reserves as at March 2006 at £56,424. This amounts to an increase of only £1.24 per annum (approx) on the parish portion for a Band D household and will equate to approx. £47.88 pa (last year £46.64).

The request to SCDC has to be made prior to the February meeting and a decision must be taken at the January meeting whether to accept this recommendation or otherwise what figure should be requested from SCDC.

Members of the Committee will be pleased to answer any questions on the discussions which took place and the recommendations given at the meeting.

NOTES:

**Recreation Ground:** Figures as agreed at the AGM (46.34% being Impington's share) of £26,182.93, plus £4,500 to cover loans of equivalent of £37,000 (freehold) and £28,000 (parish office) over 25 years = £30,683. Legal fees are presumed to be covered by the Recreation Ground Committee from their reserves

**Wages:** Previous "guesstimates" seem to be high. Mrs Marsh to be employed as from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. Impact largely unknown at present, but Committee have tried to keep the figure at a realistic level

**Insurance:** Zurich have admitted an error in calculating the Burial ground portion. This has resulted in ordinary insurance costs rising above precept. Some payment will be repayable to Histon PC when invoice raised for Burial Ground for last year

**Training:** As recommended by CALC

**Computer:** New computer required for second station (Recreation ground/Assist Clerk) – see item 18

**Litter Picking:** Trevor Smith who picks for 10 hours a week in Impington. He is paid via the Recreation Ground Committee, with each Council paying half yearly to cover the amount. An extra amount for equipment for HICAP volunteers is included

**Grass Cutting:** Due to dry weather this year, not all cuts were necessary resulting in a low cost. Please note County payment received (£1,629). £200 for work required over winter months. Contract due for renewal / tender 2005. This figure has been raised from the original suggestion to Committee to take account of new spec being written and also in case of wet weather

**Trees:** Work on Copse expected this financial year

**Burial Ground:** All work now carried out as planned. Maintenance year only expected

**Special Projects:** £1,500 Village Warden purposes; £500 Church wall; £24,000 Millennium Halls = £26,000.

**Legal:** £800 in for this year - £600 for Copse and £200 for possible Public Inquiry expenses. Next year £500 in case of need

**Youth:** Committee request. Much of the expenditure is of Grants received (£18,840 to date). Histon Parish Council have now transferred all funds for Youth Committee into a No 2 Impington PC account, purely for Youth Committee expenditure

There is nothing allowed in the papers for:

- **Recreation ground development** except what already in Recreation Ground request.
- **street lighting / footway lighting** if it was decided to supply any.
- Admin costs re **Health & Safety** etc