

**Histon & Impington Parish Council**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>12 January 2016</b>
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**Precept 2016-2017****Background, national and county**

The Government continues to operate an austerity programme that continues to impact the available funding for Principal Authorities, and continues to operate a 2% cap on Council Tax rises without a referendum. However, there is recognition that social care costs are a particular burden, and therefore authorities (eg the County Council) with this responsibility can raise a further 2%. In addition, authorities in the lowest quartile (eg South Cambridgeshire) are allowed to increase Council Tax by £5 should they wish.

It has been assumed that the District Council will take advantage of this relaxation. Following the press release issued by the County Conservative Councillors (see: <https://t.co/of6nwYXfdo>) it is assumed that, with the support of UKIP Councillors, they will carry the vote, and will raise Council Tax by just 1.99%

The Government has still not introduced any form of cap for Town/Parish/Community Councils. One was mooted for the top 100 Councils (Histon and Impington are around number 400), but this has not materialised. Whilst Ministers “complain” from time to time about the increases coming from Local Councils, they are clearly not minded to do anything about it!

Locally, the indications are that the following increases will apply (all £ at Band D)

<b>Authority</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>increase</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Cambridgeshire County Council	1144.26	1.99%	22.77	1167.03	See above
South Cambridgeshire District Council	125.31	1.99%/£5	5.00	130.31	Assume maximum
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	181.35	2%	3.63	184.98	No info; assume maximum
Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue	64.26	2%	1.27	65.53	From 2017-2020 plan
Histon & Impington Parish Council	91.18	2%	1.84	93.02	<b>If proposals accepted</b>
Total	1606.38		34.51	1640.87	<b>See above</b>

Note that the Histon & Impington tax base has increased again to 3269.6 - an increase of 1%

**Budget development**

As last year, all Committees submitted budget plans to Finance, Legal and Admin. Forecasts for the next 3 years were again made, but have not been included here.

These budgets built on the work that was done last year, and no changes have been made to the proposals for the coming year. Thanks are due to Councillors and staff for the quality of the submissions.

Basis/principles/assumptions:

1. The precept should at least cover all regular expenditure items
2. Capital items to be met from general or specified reserves, or, in the longer term, borrowing for larger items.

All capital proposals will be subject to rigorous review, including deliverability in the year.

3. Some items are being treated as capital (ie no allowance made in regular expenditure budget) as follows:  
Election. The District’s *minimum* charge has been included. However, the costs for handling a poll (£8,000) have not. No poll (ie a contested election) has occurred since the 1970s and including the possible costs in the revenue budget is unreasonable;

Neighbourhood Plan. The means of delivery, likely costs and available funding (which is significant) are all unknowns. It is also a one-off exercise;

Any further donation towards the Methodist Church, bringing the contribution to their work in line with that to StAc.

4. The contribution to the Community Services fund is being maintained, though no spend has yet been made from it. Work is ongoing with the County Council to identify opportunities and potential costs, being led by Councillors Payne and Jenkins.
5. No provision for contingency has been made. It has not been needed in previous years, and, should it be necessary, Council has adequate reserves to meet any likely requirements.
6. That the minimum necessary increase to cover expenditure should be made. The consultation responses suggest that the community would be prepared to accept a higher increase.

Details are in Appendix 1 - presented in a like for like form as per previous year, with capital proposals on the second page.

Appendix 2 is a reformat of this, breaking down Payroll, FLA to give a more complete picture of per committee costs.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the plans for capital spend be noted, but approval is to be given on a case by case basis after a detailed submission. FLA Committee to have final responsibility for determining the source of funding.
2. That Council Tax rates continue to be equal for the two Parishes
3. That the Council Tax rate should be increased by 2%, giving a precept of £304,134. Noting that this gives a Band D rate of £93.02, an increase of £1.84 (3½p per week for a Band D household, and similarly being £1.22 a year/2½p per week for Band A; and £3.68 a year/7p per week for Band H)

## Appendix 1

Committee (Notes)	Budget 2015/16 Expenditure	Budget Nett 2015/16	Forecast Nett	Budget 2016/17 Expenditure	Income 2016/17	Nett 2016/17	Increase Budget v Forecast
Planning	£9,400	£1,400	£518	£500	£0	£500	-£18
Youth <sup>1</sup>	£26,931	£26,031	£26,536	£12,359	£810	£11,549	-£14,987
Recreation	£38,720	£1,395	£3,825	£36,925	£35,440	£1,485	-£2,340
Highways	£8,340	£1,600	£1,590	£2,460	£0	£2,460	£870
Environment + Kings Meadows <sup>4</sup>	£48,274	£41,374	£31,303	£45,475	£7,800	£37,675	£6,372
Community Facilities	£12,000	£0	£2,034	£0	£0	£0	-£2,034
Community Services	£10,000	£10,000	£0	£10,000	£0	£10,000	£10,000
Payroll <sup>2</sup>	£133,167	£131,667	£124,767	£159,427	£1,500	£157,927	£33,160
FL&A <sup>3</sup>	£72,342	£65,342	£65,902	£75,850	£7,000	£68,850	£2,948
<b>Total</b>	<b>£359,174</b>	<b>£278,809</b>	<b>£256,475</b>	<b>£342,996</b>		<b>£291,946</b>	
<b>Payments into reserves</b>			<b>£15,658</b>	<b>£13,000</b>			
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£272,133</b>	<b>£355,996</b>	<b>£51,050</b>	<b>£303,446</b>	
	<b>Precept</b>		<b>£296,635</b>				
		<b>Difference</b>	<b>£24,502</b>				

## Notes

1. In 2015/16, included payments for youth worker; that is now included in salaries
2. Now includes youth worker, apprentice (full year), National Insurance and Pension contribution changes
3. Increased insurance and Council Tax
4. Relative increase because of £10K underspend in 2015/16

## For capital proposals, see next page

## Precept - impact of various options

Band D equivalent	3269.6						
Percentage rise on last year	0.00%	1.00%	2.00%	3.00%	4.00%	5.00%	6.00%
£ rise on last year		£0.91	£1.84	£2.79	£3.76	£4.75	£5.76
Poundage	£91.18	£92.09	£93.02	£93.97	£94.94	£95.92	£96.93
Raises	£298,112	£301,093	£304,134	£307,236	£310,402	£313,632	£316,930

**Capital Proposals**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Committee (description)</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>Transfer to 2016-17</b>	<b>New request</b>	<b>Total 2016-17</b>
Environment	Burial ground Mill Lane fence	2000	2000	6000	8000
	Allotments - Water at Gatehouse	0		3000	3000
	Public Art	30000	30000	0	30000
	Street Furniture	6500	6500	3500	10000
	Manor Park/Guided Bus fencing	1250	<i>spent</i>		
	Xmas lights	1400	1400	900	2300
	Homefield Park Estate fencing	18000	<i>spent</i>		
	Homefield Park Electricity	10000	10000	1500	11500
	Drainage (Brook) project	20000	20000	0	20000
Highways	Minor Improvements	30000	15000	10000	25000
	Bus shelter renewal	2500	2500	0	2500
	Heritage light at the Green			1000	1000
Admin	Restroom/extension	110000	15000	0	15000
	Neighbourhood Plan				?
	Grant to Methodist Church			4500	<b>4500</b>
Recreation	Cricket nets (nett)	20000	<i>spent</i>		
	Tennis project (nett)	115000	?	?	?
	Community facilities	89000	?	?	?
	MUGA Refurbishment			20000	20000
	Cricket safety netting			26,260	26260
	<b>Total Capital Bids</b>	<b>455650</b>	<b>102400</b>	<b>71160</b>	<b>179060</b>

**Appendix 2**

This view of committee spend has:

- moved payments into specific reserves (“sinking funds”) to the relevant committee
- apportioned staff costs to the appropriate committee/function
- charged loans (eg Pavilion, 12 New Road, Office) to the appropriate committee

Without capital spend but including capital (and interest) repayments:

<b>Committee (Notes)</b>	<b>Budget 2016/17 Expenditure</b>	<b>Income 2016/17</b>	<b>Nett 2016/17</b>	<b>Nett 2015/16</b>	<b>Change (+ve = increase)</b>
<b>Planning<sup>4</sup></b>	£8,079	£0	£8,079	£6,817	£1,262
<b>Youth<sup>4</sup></b>	£33,085	£810	£32,275	£28,303	£3,972
<b>Recreation</b>	£144,329	£36,940	£107,389	£119,610	-£12,221
<b>Highways</b>	£10,039	£0	£10,039	£10,157	-£118
<b>Environment + Kings Meadows<sup>4</sup></b>	£65,615	£7,800	£57,815	£54,520	£3,295
<b>Finance, Legal and Administration<sup>1</sup></b>	£77,944	£7,000	£70,944	£67,816	£3,128
<b>Community Support/Donations<sup>3</sup></b>	£6,905		£6,905	£6,000	£905
<b>Community Services<sup>2</sup></b>	£10,000		£10,000	£0	£10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£355,996</b>	<b>£51,050</b>	<b>£303,446</b>	<b>£293,223</b>	<b>£10,223</b>

**Notes**

- 1 Council Tax increase on storage shed; Insurance
- 2 Community services not explicitly budgetted in 2015/2016, no spend
- 3 Older persons' funding
- 4 Staffing related