

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

(Notes to accompany the Annual Return for the year 2015/2016)

1) Balance Brought Forward (Box 1)

Agrees with Balance Carried Forward from 2014/15 (Box 7)

2) Annual Precept (Box 2)

The precept was increased by approximately 30%, in order to cover a budgeted increase in the clerk's hours from 1.23 to 1.75 days per week, and provision for a handover period when the clerk was replaced. Additionally this covered increased training for a new clerk and new councillor, as well as an increase in insurance in anticipation of the play provision.

3) Total Other Receipts (Box 3)

This shows a decrease of -61%. This is primarily due to a reduction in income from grants for capital projects and from the Burial Ground. Income from the Burial Ground fell from £9,174 in the previous year to £5,355. Other income from grants in 2014/15 of £10,351 included £9,351 towards the cost of the Jubilee Pavilion and £1,000 to subsidise the cost of repairing part of the church path. The amount received in other grants in 2015/16 was much lower at £2,355 and were for completing the resurfacing of the church path. It should be noted that £3,372 was received from HMRC as a refund for the equivalent amount in tax rebates which were paid to the new clerk between November 2015 and March 2016.

4) Staff Costs (Box4)

This shows a significant increase of 36%. This was in part budgeted in order to increase the clerk's hours to 1.75 days per week, to provide an annual salary of £6,300, plus expenses of £120. However following the resignation of the previous clerk, a new clerk was appointed in November 2015, and a handover dual working period of approximately 2 months took place, which increased salary plus expenses costs by £700. In 2016/17 the clerk's hours will be increased further to 2 days per week.

5) Loan Interest/Capital Repayments (Box 5)

The Council continues to have no borrowings.

6) Total Other Payments (Box 6)

General Expenditure is decreased by 59%. Apart from £2,355 completing resurfacing of the church path, and £675 replacing fencing in the Burial Ground, planned capital projects in 2015/16 to install play equipment in Goulburn Green and to replace the water connection in the Burial Ground were delayed. Expenditure on these projects is now expected to be spent in 2016/17.

7) Balances Carried Forward (Box 7)

These remain high mainly because capital projects were delayed. Agreement of shared costs with the Betchworth Estate for the water connection to the Burial Grounds required further quotations as original costs were too high. Installation of play equipment on Goulburn Green required village approval, planning approval for a Deed of Variations to the conditions under which the green is owned, and funding applications to be approved.

8) Total Cash & Investments (Box 8)

This agrees with Box 7 as there are no creditors or debtors this year.

9) Total Fixed Assets (Box 9)

There have been no changes to fixed assets this year.

10) Total Borrowings (Box 10)

The Council has no borrowings, as previously.

11) Reserves

Reserves have increased to close to £27,000 and are held as follows:-

General Contingency £21,540 (Equivalent to twice a year's precept)

Burial Ground Contingency £3,000 (Variation in Rate of Income)

The remainder of reserves are earmarked for delayed capital projects (£2,500).

It is anticipated that the Reserves will drop significantly in the coming year.

Clerk/RFO