

# WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Budget meeting held in the Committee Room, Village Hall, Woodcote Wednesday 13th November 2018 at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT**

Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce.
	Mr. A. Crockett
	Mr. M. Smith
	Mrs. J. Farmer
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

1. To receive apologies for absence  
Dr. G. Botting, D. Booth, Dr. P. Sudbury, B. Williams.

The Clerk had circulated the proposed Draft budget for Financial year 2019/2020 to all members prior to the meeting with suggested uplifts on certain categories.

Cllr. Botting had sent in his points for consideration;

1. A 2% uplift on the precept seems low suggested 10%.  
For a Band E property this means paying an additional £8.34/year which, at less than 2.5p/day, is a small amount when one considers the expenditure on the zebra crossing and proposed new pathway and, potentially, other traffic related measures. For the parish budget it raises another £7000, again small set against the costs of the pathway, for example.
2. Reduce the proposed £6000 for the Youth Club to £3000. This covers the new arrangement, the Youth Club have substantial reserves and should additional funding be required then they can come back to the PC for an extraordinary payment.
3. I think it's right to raise the internet fees - is £1000 enough?
4. The Library number looks a little odd. If we want to increase our support to the library (which I would support) then round it up to £2000.
5. At the last PC meeting you mentioned that you'd been advised that the boiler in the Function Room kitchen should be replaced. IF so then you may want to double check that the VH Capital budget could cover that.

Cllr. Booth had sent in his points for consideration;

I recommend the Village Hall budget is increased by £1k as the boiler in the YC/Fr needs renewal. General heating control/programme system needs replacing as we are continuing to have failures as the cold weather approaches. The interior of the hall and other areas need painting (last painting done nearly 10yrs ago) plus the normal structure capital maintenance of an old building.  
I recommend the YC budget reduced by £1k as we have over £16k in reserves of YC budgeted funds not spent.

The Chairman discussed the precept figure and in general it was felt that a 10% increase seemed rather high, however the PC are committed to capital projects around the village and these need funds, if the PC do not keep a certain amount of reserve funds they will easily become depleted, with a large amount to be paid from reserves for the Zebra Crossing this Financial year.

It was Resolved to increase the precept budget for FY 2019/2020 by 9.5%

Regarding income from bank interest it was resolved that the Clerk input the same figures as received this FY as it cannot be predicted what the interest values will be. Brexit is likely to have an impact.

Administration categories.

Resolved Staff costs increase from £17340 to £18000.

Legal costs these will need to increase next year to cover Parish Council Elections, the estimate costing band for Woodcote is £3500 - £4500. However uncontested elections will be charged at £100. Resolved to add £4000 to the existing legal budget of £3000.

Non Committed Grants

Village Hall Capital Maintenance

Ongoing capital costs of running an old building continue the heating and toilets are often needing attention. Replacement boiler for the Function Room/YC end of the building is required. Resolved to increase to £8000.

Citizens Advise Bureau grant was £1000 however as the outreach office in the Community Centre is no longer running a reduced figure was discussed. Cllr. Smith had checked the CAB's Accounts which the Clerk had circulated to members, to ascertain the average amount parishes contributed. Resolved to budget £600 for this grant in FY2019/2020.

Youth Club budget has been at £8000 for several years but the YC do not always require the budget amount if any, so the budget is carried over each year. The YC have good reserves, and currently a qualified youth worker who volunteers and does not require payment. However, this position may change and a youth worker may require payment, the YC may increase the amount of days they run the club. The PC wish to continue to support the successful YC. It was resolved to set 2019/2020 budget at £6000.

Woodcote Library

Cllr. Botting had noted that the figure for this year of £1862 seem odd. The Clerk advised that the PC cover the salary of the professional librarian for Saturdays and this was the salary figure. Resolved to increase the budget figure for 2019/2020 to £2000.

Village Maintenance

Cllr. Smith suggested that a line code be used for Village projects/improvements, the Clerk advised that currently the Village Maintenance code line is used for any expenditure on these items. Resolved to increase budget to £7000 and change the description to Village Maintenance/Improvements.

The Clerk to action circulating Draft 2 of the Budget to all members for finalising at the next Parish Council meeting.

*Meeting closed at 8.30pm*