

DRAFT BUDGET NOTES 2015-16

INCOME

Recreation ground and Green Hire – this includes income from the Sports Clubs and organisations that use the Recreation ground and the building. In addition we have other parties such as the fair and the circus who hire the village green.

Village Hall Income – We Financed part of the Ladybirds building and they reimburse us the cost of the loan. We also receive income from a number of groups in the village including the Day Centre, Kids Only after school club, the Sports & Social Club and aerobics instructors. The hall is also rented out to casual users for events.

Other Income – We are able to recoup some of our utility costs at the recreation ground and on the green from users. We receive a donation from the Church and Causeways charity on an annual basis and this is paid out again to the Goode Bequest and the Dissenters Cemetery. This figure appears in our expenses, so the income and expenditure do cancel each other out. Any bank interest we receive is included here.

EXPENDITURE

Precept - As you will see from the expenditure portion of the budget, we are responsible for a large number of areas and council owned assets and land, all of which we need to maintain in line with statutory legislation and health and safety rules. The cost of some of these areas can be very high. All other income to meet these responsibilities and to deliver much needed services to the residents needs to be raised via our portion of your council tax bill.

Administration – this covers the cost of running the council, including salaries, website, stationery, phone and our office.

Utilities – We pay for electricity on the recreation ground, in the buildings and on the green. In addition we pay for water bills and oil for heating the building.

Recreation Ground – All areas of the recreation ground including the sports pitches, play area, Skate Park, fencing and hedging are our responsibility.

Insurance – This covers all aspects of the Council from Buildings to Public liability.

Legal & Professional Fees – This covers the cost of representation at any public enquiry that the council will need to attend, particularly any controversial planning applications etc. In addition architects fees, planning fees, general legal advice and financial advice would be included here

Audit Fees – We are required by law to have both an annual internal audit by an independent Auditor as well as submit our yearly accounts to our external auditors.

Training Fees – This is to ensure that new councillors can attend proper training courses in order to familiarise themselves with the huge amount of legislation that they are required to understand and follow. In addition the Clerk and RFO are required to ensure that all relevant training is kept up to date.

Cost of Borrowing – We have a current loan in place which was taken out to extend our existing building to accommodate Ladybirds pre-school. The cost of this loan is recouped by quarterly payments from ladybirds totalling £6220 in a year.

Village Maintenance – In addition to the Recreation ground, we are responsible for large portions of land in the village. This includes the Village Green, the old Recreation ground on Broad Lane, Fen Reeves Woodland, the Pond, The Pound car park and Crowlands Manor (which is a heritage site). We also are responsible for the War Memorial and its surrounds, tree works on hundreds of trees owned by the Parish, bus shelters, ditches, litter bins and some costs of footway lighting.

Traffic Safety Projects – Although Highways/roads are the responsibility of the Cambridgeshire County Council, we as a Parish Council are approached all the time by residents who would like to see the traffic slowed down and made safer at a number of points in the village. County Highways budgets are being cut and work we regard as a priority comes much lower on their priority list so will not be done unless we contribute financially. We have received a ‘price list’ from them and the costs are very high, partly due to related safety assurance during work on the highway. We would like to try to make improvements to mobility routes in the village and provide some of the traffic calming measures that our residents are asking for.

Youth Provision – We would like to provide good facilities for the young people of Cottenham. We would like to continue to fund visits from the Connexions Bus throughout the year and are in addition are looking at other youth provision projects i.e. first aid and babysitting courses which a recognised qualification for the young people participating.

Christmas Carol Concert – This is a yearly event that is partly funded by the Parish Council and much enjoyed by many residents.

Elections – We are required to accrue funds for a possible election every 4 years as we are charged around £4k by SCDC to run an election and even if it uncontested (if there are not enough candidates running) we do still incur costs.

Donations & Grants – Under S137 powers we have the ability to support groups and charities within our village that request help from us.

Contingent Projects – We always strive to provide good facilities in Cottenham but cost has to be a consideration and the budget can only go so far. We are continuously looking for sources of finance outside the precept. Our current Changing Rooms project and Skate Park would not have been possible without substantial grant funding. We are waiting to hear whether we have been successful in grant applications for 10K from Cambridgeshire County Council as part of their Local Highways Initiative. If successful this LHI bid will allow further improvements to our highways and pavements. Likewise with the Beach Road development underway we expect to get a sum of S136 “development contribution” monies which will be targeted at improvements to the Village Hall and road safety improvements.