

**WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL – 25 JANUARY 2023**  
**REPORT OF THE CLERK**  
**BUDGET AND PARISH PRECEPT 2023-24**

The Council is requested to determine the budget and parish precept for 2023-24. A summary of the estimated net expenditure for 2023-24 is given below. A copy of the draft budget for each committee has been supplied. The Council agreed on 7 December 2022 that the budget should be prepared on a no growth basis.

**Environment and Amenities**

Environmental works and events	13800	
Battery Lane Allotment Site	500	
		14300
<b>Finance and General Committee</b>		23650
<b>Total net expenditure</b>		<b>37950</b>

**Martinscroft Village Green**

The Council have authorised an inspection on trees on the southern length of the Green. This is to allow a report to be prepared on work to trees overhanging the highway. The agreed scheme for traffic calming measures included recognition of maintenance work. Provision has been made for works e.g., tree works, road maintenance and the periodic cleaning of the cenotaph.

**Hillock Lane amenity area**

Liaison is continuing with the Borough Council on use of the amenity area as part of a scheme for Woolston Playing Fields. Until this information is received consideration of environmental improvement works to the amenity area has been halted. Provision has been made for unplanned works e.g., tree works and participation in any scheme promoted by the Borough Council.

**Woolston Playing Fields**

Responsibility for the management of the playing fields has been with the Borough Council from 1 September 2012. No further discussions have been held with the Borough Council on the future use and management of the playing fields and the associated impact on the amenity area. Provision has been made for participation in any scheme promoted by the Borough Council.

**Election costs provision**

Provision has been made for the repayment of the costs of elections based on the policy agreed by the Borough Council to have the option of repayment by instalment.

**Friends of Woolston Park**

Provision of has been included in the draft budget for Community Events, as in previous years. Separate provision is made for works by the Group in the park.

### **Road safety scheme**

Provision has been made for a road safety scheme to assist in speed control of vehicles. This has been delayed to allow a scheme to be developed in liaison with the Borough Council and the Police.

### **Facilities for young people**

The Council has considered supporting facilities for young people subject to consultation with other agencies and young people in the parish. The Council has received reports of possible contributions from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire. Provision has been made for a contribution to a scheme.

### **Old Billy scheme – New Cut Canal**

The Council has given approval to a scheme along the New Cut Canal to celebrate the life of Old Billy, the World's oldest working horse. Culture Warrington are leading on the development of the scheme, and it is intended that physical works will be installed this year. The Council have agreed to work in partnership with the Borough Council in the implementation of the scheme. Liaison is to take place with the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group and the Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council when the draft artwork has been received from Culture Warrington.

### **Earmarked reserves 2023-24**

Provision has been made for the following earmarked reserves:

Martinscroft Village Green	5000
Tree works	2000
Woolston Playing Fields/Hillock Lane Amenity Area	3000
Road safety scheme – speed control	2500
Facilities for young people	2000
Old Billy scheme – New Cut Trail	2750
Election costs	3250
Total	£20500

### **Calculation of Precept for 2023-24**

Closing balances 31/3/22

Council	38559	
Charity	10695	
Total balances at 31/3/22		49254

Precept 1/4/22	26133	
Council balances	38559	
Total		64692

### **Estimated net expenditure 2022-23**

Committee budgets	28895	
Earmarked reserves	3500	32395

### **Estimated balances at 31/3/23**

Council	32297	
Charity	10695	
Total balances		42992

### **Budget provision 2023-24**

Net estimated expenditure 37950

Earmarked reserves 20500

**Total provision 58450**

Estimated amount to be met from Precept £26153

### **Level of Precept**

The precept for 2022-23 was £26133 giving an amount of £11.34 for a Band D property.

A precept of £26181 using the notified tax base for 2023-24 would give an estimated amount of £11.34 for a Band D property. This would meet the criteria set by the Council for a no growth budget cost as applied in determining the precept for 2022-23.

Other examples of the estimated result of the precept figure for a Band D property for the year 2023-24:

£25000      £10.83

£26153      £11.33

£26500      £11.48

£28877      £12.50

### **Recommendation**

That the Council determine the Budget and Precept for 2023-24.