

Stokesley Town Council Newsletter



Budget and Precept – Ahead of the Council Tax bill dropping through the letter box in the next couple of months this newsletter focuses on the budget and precept for the Town Council which leads to its share of the Council Tax bill for 2023/24. The Town Council share of the bill for 2022/23 bill was just 3.7% of the total.

Establishing the budget for the coming year, 2023/24, was

more challenging than recent years, with the Town Council seeking to balance the continued provision of high quality services with the need to constrain expenditure in the context of the rise in costs from inflation and the impact of the cost of living crisis on council taxpayers. In doing so there was a focus on constraining discretionary spend to a realistic minimum. The impact of the cost increases on the Council

Tax bill has been reduced by the planned transfer of funds from existing reserves.

By transferring money from reserves the increase in the Town Council element of your Council Tax bill has been limited to 4.92%, less than half the current rate of inflation. For a Band D property, the cost of the services provided by the Town Council will equate to £1.50 per week in 2023/24.

The table below summarises planned income and expenditure for 2023/24:

Item	Value
Administration / Grants / Misc	£82,250
Community Library	£23,500
Grasscutting / Hedges / Trees	
Income	-£2,969
Expenditure	£33,000
Office Costs	£11,415
Open Spaces / Play Area	
Income	-£20
Expenditure	£10,950
Events / Christmas Lights	
Income	-£200
Expenditure	£9,300
Insurances	£4,000
Toilets	£7,000
Professional Fees	£2,100
CCTV	£1,200
Allotments	
Income	-£2,500
Expenditure	£2,500
Contingency	£2,000
Transfer from Reserves	-£14,026
Precept	£169,500

The services provided within the major items of expenditure include:

Community Library – the management staff costs to ensure that the Globe library remains open. The Town Council consulted on this principle a number of years ago.

Grass Cutting – for all publicly owned land within the Parish. The income derives from grass cutting on land owned by Hambleton and North Yorkshire councils.

Tree and Hedge Maintenance – on the public areas of most of the housing estates and other parish land.

Play Park – inspection, maintenance and upkeep plus replacement of equipment.

Public Toilets – cleaning materials, repairs and maintenance.

Christmas Lights – installation, repairs and storage

Grants – a limited budget to provide support to local community organisations.

Events – A budget of £3,000 for the Stokesley Book Festival to take place on Sunday 25 June 2023. It is hoped that sponsorship will be secured towards this new event.

Allotments – income and expenditure on the allotments are balanced over the longer term.

Professional Fees – covers statutory audit and solicitors' fees.

Insurances – provides public liability cover.

CCTV – maintenance and repair of facilities provided by the Town Council.

Further Budget and Precept information can be found on our website www.stokesleytowncouncil.gov.uk or by contacting the Town Clerk contact@stokesleytowncouncil.gov.uk