

Precept for year 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Summary

The figures below suggest that the precept can remain at its current level for the next year. You could, if you wish, choose to reduce the precept but it must be remembered that a standalone election represents 26% of the precept and must always be considered a possibility.

Budget forecast for financial year 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

The forecast for the remaining part of this year and also for next year is proving to be a little difficult. This is because at the moment we have no idea whether or not we will be successful in our transparency grant application. As a result I have prepared forecast columns A and B; with A representing a £0 grant and B a £900 grant. These, along with the original 2015/16 forecast and figures for actual to date, can be seen below. My gut feeling is that we will get a grant but that it will be reduced by 10 -16 hours of setup and running time (say by £100 to £150). The bottom line of the forecast show figures that would represent our approximate cash reserves at the end of the period less the ring fenced sum of £1084.30 which the Council holds on behalf of the CPRE Footpath project for an information board.

Should we be successful with the grant bid we must purchase the equipment immediately or we will be required to repay the grant. There will in addition to the laptop and "scanner" be the need to purchase some software; i.e. a virus/internet security program and Microsoft Office 2010 with a business license. I suggest Office 2010 because more recent versions run at least partly in the cloud, which is pointless in Thompson and partly because they require an annual license fee to be paid, which for business users is quite high. An outright purchase of an older version of Office seems better value and support is still given by Microsoft. My personal version of Office 2007 is still supported. The figures in the column headed B allows for these purchases.

For year 2016/2017 I have assumed that the precept will remain at £4900 and allowed a sum of £500 for unspecified purchases and kept the grants as per this year. The bottom line suggests a range of sums that all suggest this will be adequate and allow with some "wriggle room" for unexpected items such as additional grants and standalone election. I am informed by Mazars that reserves of a sum greater than the precept are not allowed without an adequate explanation and whilst our reserves will be in excess of precept the ring fenced sum can be used as an adequate explanation. However an increase in precept would be much harder to explain even though a standalone election would cost is excess of 25% of the precept.

It should be noted that the Tax base for Thompson, the figure from which Thompson's rates are calculated, has reduced from 152.9 to 152.6 meaning that to retain a £4900 precept the Band D rate will increase by about £0.07 per annum. Alternatively a reduction of precept from £4900 to £4890 would keep the Band D rate at its current rate.

Item	2015/16	Actual to 15 Nov 2015	A Revised forecast 2015 /2016	B Revised forecast 2015 /2016	2016/17	Notes
Income	£	£	£	£	£	
Precept	4900	4900	4900	4900	4900	
Grants	212	212	212	212	162	
Grant -transparency			0	900	175	
VAT	221	221	221	221	416*	or 293 See note 1
Recycling	231	231	231	231	0	
Interest	1	0	1	1	1	
Other		17	17	17		
Total Income	<u>5565</u>	<u>5581</u>	<u>5582</u>	<u>6482</u>	<u>5654</u>	
Expenditure						
Staff Costs	1504	752	1504	1504	1504	
Payroll services	144	72	144	144	144	
Insurance	585	585	585	585	585	
other unspecified exp.	300	510	510	1270*	500	or 510 to 1270 See note 2
Grants						
Church	500	323	323	323	500	
Village Hall	150	150	150	150	150	
Wayland Parnership	300	300	300	300	300	
Grass cutting	1176	1176	1176	1176	1200	
Memberships						
Norfolk ALC	105	105	105	105	110	
C A Norfolk	50	50	50	50	50	
Total Expenditure	<u>4814</u>	<u>4023</u>	<u>4847</u>	<u>5607</u>	<u>5043</u>	
Receipts less expenditure	751		735	875	611	or 611 to 488 See note 3
Forecast cash at 31 March 2016 less ring fenced sum of 1084	4783		4767	4907	5255 - 5518	See note 4

Note 1

We reclaim our VAT once per financial year and a claim cannot be made until after the claim period has finished. I.e. we cannot claim the VAT for this financial year until the start of the next financial year. Thus dependant on whether we need to purchase laptop, scanner and software our VAT claim will either be for the amount currently owed to us of £293 or for an higher amount of £416.

Note 2

Again this amount is dependent on whether or not we receive the transparency grant and reflects resultant purchases during the remainder of this financial year subsequent VAT that can be reclaimed next financial year.

Note 3

Above comments apply.

Note 4

Above comments apply.