

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED REVENUE BUDGET 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

<u>EXPENDITURE</u> (Net of VAT)	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>£</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Amenities	8,760	
Trees/Arboriculture Work	1,300	
Grass Cutting – Open Space	4,800	(Note i)
Street Lighting (Electricity)	400	
Street Lighting (Maintenance)	180	
Street Lighting (Improvements)	300	(Note ii)
Play Area – Inspection	120	
Play Area – Repairs & Maintenance	300	
Parish Assets (Notice Boards/Bins/Bus Shelters)	1,000	
Christmas Trees (Light Connection/Disposal)	360	(Note iii)
Employee Costs	6,970	
Salary	6,500	(Note iv)
Payroll Service	150	
Homeworking Allowance	320	
Printing, Stationery and Office Sundries	200	
Professional Fees	480	
External Auditor	200	
Internal Auditor	210	
Other Professional Fees	70	
Premises Related Expenditure	1,160	
Village Hall Hire	60	
Village Hall Insurance	1,100	(Note v)
Other Expenditure	860	
Training Courses	100	
Donations (Villager Minibus)	100	
Subscriptions (BATPC)	300	
Neighbourhood Planning	0	(Note vi)
Data Protection Fee	40	
Web-Site	320	
Insurance	900	(Note vii)
General Contingency	1,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	20,330	

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
	£	
<u>INCOME</u>		
Precept	19,700	
Proposed 2023/2024 Precept	19,700	(Note viii)
Other Income	630	
Investment Interest	5	
Grass Cutting Contribution	625	(Note ix)
TOTAL INCOME	20,330	

NOTES

- (i) The grass cutting budget is based upon (i) 10 cuts per annum for the churchyard, (ii) 19 cuts per annum to the playing field and (iii) 15 cuts per annum to village spaces and roadside verges (ordinarily grass cutting takes place during the period April to November). The grasscutting contract is due for renewal effective from 1 April 2023. The budget is based upon the accepted quotation for the service in 2020 and an allowance for ongoing service needs and inflation (compared to 2020 contract values).
- (ii) Provision has been made in the budget for the potential replacement of existing LED street lighting lanterns if required.
- (iii) Provision has been made for annual light connection/disconnection and tree disposal. It is assumed that residents or a sponsor from Radwell will bear the cost associated with the provision of a Christmas tree.
- (iv) The budget reflects salary scales and hourly pay rates in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) negotiations for local government staff, including incremental progression and national pay awards. Allowance is also made for mileage payments at HMRC approved rates.
- (v) A 3-year Long-Term Agreement with Hiscox commenced on 17 July 2022 and is due for renewal in 2025/2026. The annual premium applying in 2022/2023 was £1,010.77 including Insurance Premium Tax and Administration Fee. A small allowance has been made for the index linking of sums insured.
- (vi) The Neighbourhood Plan was adopted on 4 July 2022 following a local referendum, and a mid-period review of the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan will not be required until 2024/2025. No funding provision has, therefore, been made in the 2023/2024 revenue budget.
- (vii) A 3-year Long Term Agreement with Hiscox commenced on 1 June 2021 and is due for renewal in 2024/2025. The annual premium applying in 2022/2023 was £827.23 including Insurance Premium Tax and Administration Fee. A small allowance has been made for the index linking of sums insured.
- (viii) An increase in the Parish Precept of 3.1% to £19,700 is proposed for 2023/2024 to offset some year-on-year price increases. The inflation allowance usually has regard to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) year on year increase, but CPI rose by 10.1% in the 12 months to September 2022. Given the significant impact on households from the prevailing economic situation, there is a keenness to be responsible in budget setting and to absorb, where possible, cost increases. The 2022/2023 Precept was based upon 365.59 Band D equivalent properties (being the indicative number of properties as at 30 November 2021) at a £52.24 Band D Council Tax level (i.e. a total Precept of £19,100). This will increase to £53.89 based upon the revised Precept [Note: The Tax Base is re-calculated annually as at 30 November in each year and, as such, there may be a small variation in actual sum collected from the Precept].
- (ix) The Borough Council makes an annual contribution of £624.15 towards the cost incurred by the Parish Council in maintaining the highway verges within the village(s) by grass cutting in exercise of powers under Section 96 of the Highways Act 1980. For the purpose of urban grass cutting, the minimum frequency required is six cuts per annum and the extent of urban cutting is defined as the 30/40mph speed limit sign, or the village name plate, whichever is the furthest from the centre of the village.