

Finance Sub-Group Report

Maggie Rawcliffe and Matthew Frohn met with the Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer on Friday 25th November 2016 to prepare a budget for 2017-18. We:

- Reviewed and agreed to recommend amendments to the Council's Risk Assessment, removing reference to the Village Hall and to the Council having a Clerk who holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration and amending the recommendation regarding memorial safety (attached)
- Reviewed the Council's Asset Register and identified no asset that required repair, maintenance, replacement or disposal
- Reviewed the Clerk's salary, without the Clerk present, and concluded the current local government salary scale point 25 was the highest appropriate for a Clerk of this Council
- Considered a paper from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer showing the impact on the Council's finances for 2017-18 of a further increase of almost 5% in the parish's Council Tax base (attached)
- Drew up a proposed budget for 2017-18 which, in view of the anticipated level of the Council's unrestricted reserves at the end of 2016-17, envisaged a substantial deficit and a reduction of more than 1% in the Council Tax addition for the Parish Council (attached)
- Agreed to recommend the Financial Regulations be amended to allow the Council to use direct debit to pay annual bills such as the Council's registration with the Information Commissioner
- Agreed the Clerk should produce a template for an Official Order for use when required
- Recognised that decisions still to be taken with regard to future burial ground fees and future management of the burial ground may have implications for the 2017-18 budget which cannot yet be forecast.