

## West & Middle Parish Council Budget Statement 2021 – 2022

The AGAR has now been completed and the final budget for 2021/2022 has been finalised.

The budget was initially set in December 2020 at the Business and Precept Planning meeting held on 14.12.2020. Having previously undertaken a half year review of the 20/21 budget and a further review on the 14.12.20, it was anticipated that spend the final year spend would be in line with the budget, in particular general maintenance including drains.

There was no proposal to earmark reserves as it was anticipated the original budget would be spent.

Taking in to account a longer planning cycle, the PC made a decision to increase the precept to cover the risk of areas likely to be under resourced over the next 3 years, including:

- Allocation of £1000.00 to support a group of residents to investigate the concerns regularly raised by resident on safety in the villages relating to speed, parking, Lorries etc in order to review and make recommendations for improvement.
- The Allotments rent is peppercorn does not cover the cost of maintenance. The Parish Council allocated funding of £2000.00 in order to support increasing access to the wider community and general maintenance.
- A budget of £5000.00 has been set aside to specially to provide an on-going programme of drains maintenance throughout the year.

The end of year accounts have been finalised and where there has been number of under spends, the PC has earmarked these reserves in order to meet on going liabilities in 21/22, which are outlined on the budget statement. The general reserve currently stands at just under 35% of the previous year's expenditure, rather than the 6- 12 months recommended for smaller councils. Having analysed the risk due to previous under spend and taking into account the earmarked reserves, this risk is considered to be acceptable. The drains were unexpectedly cleaned between Jan 21 and March 21 therefore the anticipated spend on drain clearance is anticipated to be lower than £5K which will increase the reserve level.

This level of general reserve will be reviewed in 21/22.

Capital Reserve May 2021, £27,972

Ring fenced Reserve specifically for the Recreation Ground Development May 21, £15,000

General Reserve May 21, £4176.79

Earmarked Reserves May 21, £7663.00