

Future plans

We are working on ensuring that we have a sustainable financial position over the medium to long term. The key areas the Parish Council are focusing on are:

1) Keeping the budget in balance

The Council Tax element of our income (per household) was increased by 5% last year. We have decided to increase the amount by 6.4% this year in order to continue with our goal of keeping a balanced budget.

After a small budget deficit in 2017/18, the budget should be close to balanced this year despite some late costs for management of PC-owned trees. We plan to continue to increase the Council Tax Precept by a restrained amount each year to ensure that we can balance the budget whilst building reserves and planning for future necessary expenditure.

If we can continue to generate good net proceeds from the 10k race, this will also be very important in helping to build reserves for the playing field area.

2) Planning for replacing/refurbishing equipment – major repairs

The tennis court was repaired in 2015 and restoration of the bowls surface was completed in 2018. Some work has also been necessary on the Playground in this financial year and, in the not too distant future, some large pieces of equipment will need to be replaced.

The potential costs of replacing or refurbishing existing equipment are substantial, well in excess of existing reserves, so we need to plan for how we will raise the money to be able to fund the work as required. The allowable uses of NHB money is constantly changing but if more becomes available, we will seek to use this.

If parishioners have any questions on the Parish Council finances, please contact Cllr Andy Pyle or the Clerk in the first instance.

Crowle Parish Council – Financial budget information Feb 19

Introduction

The Parish Council has responsibility for maintaining a number of areas within the Parish, such as the playing fields, the parish garden (+ nearby land) and also has an interest in maintaining Green Pool on Netherwood lane for the benefit of the Community, although this is not owned by us.

The Parish Council is principally funded through Council Tax and other grants from local government. We also support the organisation of the 10k race and receive the proceeds from that together with contributions from the various clubs and bodies that make use of the Playing Fields. We incur expenditure of approximately £32,000 per annum and aim to have income at a similar level. We set a budget in January each year for the next financial year, which runs from 1 April until 31 March. The Finance & Risk sub-committee of the Parish Council prepares a budget which is then put to the full Parish Council for discussion and formal approval.

This year, we are again providing further information in the Cryer to all parishioners about the financial budget and position, and our long term and short-term plans.

We manage the main Parish Council income and expenditure separately from the Playing Field. We anticipate this year's main account to be almost in balance at year end, but costs are likely to rise going forward. The Playing Field account has seen higher costs and we have been using the proceeds of the 10k to partly fund regular costs and maintenance of facilities.

**Summary of the main Parish Council budget
for financial year to 31 March 2020**

Receipts

Precept and WDC grant	£28,291	Council Tax income
County Council grant	£1,911 (tbc)	To help fund the Lengthsman
Crowle Cryer	£1,840	Advertisement income
Other	£940	Rents and sundries
Total	£32,982	

Payments

Loan repayments	£10,342	Interest & capital repayments
Salaries & PAYE	£9,000	Clerk and Playing Field Caretaker
Land management	£5,300	Includes the Lengthsman and other maintenance works e.g. Green Pool, grass and tree cutting.
Crowle Cryer	£1,840	Printing and other costs
Insurance	£1,400	Assets re-valued and premium higher
Various	£5,100	Various costs less than £1,000 e.g. laptop, website, training, hall hire, audit, admin, payroll, CALC.
Total	£32,982	

The loans are from the Public Works Loan Board and were taken out to fund facilities at the Playing Field. Once the loans are fully repaid between 2024 and 2028, we will need to consider whether we can cut the Precept at that time or whether we will need the funds for other purposes.

We have allowed some additional budget this year for the training of Parish Councillors and have contingencies in case of a contested election in May. Allowance has also been made for a new IT system for website and emails and work on parish owned land. We are also hoping to help fund the restoration of the war memorial in time for its 100th anniversary in July 19 as well as assisting with on-going maintenance.

Summary of reserves – main account

Cash	£25,850 current account £12,888 in reserve account	At 31 December 2018
New Homes Bonus	£5,115 (used)	Allocated to a defibrillator in Sale Green and a new VAS machine.

Summary of Playing Field accounts and reserves

The 10k race takes place early in the financial year. As the number of entrants varies each year, it is difficult to formally budget ahead. The expected position for the Playing Field Account for the 18/19 financial year is as follows:

10k net proceeds	£4,118	Net proceeds for the Parish Council.
Donations	£2,284	
Net expenses	£7,367	Principally field/bowls and playground maintenance
Net surplus/deficit	-£965	
Playing field reserves	£23,691	As at 31 December 2018

The 10k net proceeds were higher than last year as costs were reduced – **thank you** to all the team who worked so hard to achieve this. Additional maintenance costs on the Bowls surface and playground (with more to come) mean that the 10k profits are extremely important. We will need to begin to think about replacing large items on the playground soon and would like to build reserves in order to do this as well as applying for grants where possible.