

NOTES OF A FINANCE WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM AT 19 MILL ROAD

Present: Cllrs. C L Atkinson, F A Delderfield and A J Gable. Apologies from Cllr. J C Gegan.

2015/16 Current Financial Year

The Working Party looked at the estimates for the present year and noted that under General Administration the audit fee has returned to its earlier lower level. The budget line for elections has now been set at zero for the remainder of the year; otherwise the General Administration are likely to turn out as estimated.

Under Amenities the estimate for grass cutting has slightly increased to reflect the longer cutting season but this is offset by the hedge cutting line as only one cut was required. Further quotes for work required to the safety surface to the playground at the Jubilee Recreation Ground and repairs to the zip-wire have been obtained and the working Group recommends that those of Playdale are accepted. Work to the front entrance is complete and the Chairman of the Amenities Committee suggests an alternative scheme to improve access from School Road. To carry out these repairs and improvements budget lines 34 in Amenities and 51 under non-recurring have been recalculated and partly reallocated.

Under the remaining Non-Recurring budget lines the current year allowance expenditure on the new burial ground is transferred to 2016/17 as the agents for the owner have advised that the position is *on hold*. The budget line for Speed-watch is increased to allow the volunteer group to become more effective and efficient by having their own, higher specification, speed gun. An allowance is made for work to the fence at the Totham Hill Recreation Ground. It is unlikely that any further expenditure on a Village Plan will be incurred during the current financial year.

2016/17 Next Financial Year

In considering its advice for 2016/17 the Working Party repeated or slightly increased most of the General Administration and Amenity budget lines. The exceptions are the line for Parish Council elections where a notional amount is suggested; and the playground maintenance budget.

Under Non-Recurring an amount for the new burial ground is included as mentioned above and a further budget for a Village Plan.

During the year a further Gilt matured and the Council agreed to redeem the amount and initially place it in reserves to help finance the need to extend the burial ground in the near future, and the Council's current list of maintenance works. The Working Group recommends an amount for the burial ground is earmarked as such.

The Maldon District Council is to discontinue passing on grants to alleviate the reduction in the tax base. To accommodate this reduction, reduced income from the redeemed Gilt and increased expenditure the precept would need to increase from £10 to £15.13 for a Band D Household. The Working Party recommends that half the increase is financed from reserves and the other half is collected resulting in a Council Tax of £12.36 for a Band D Household.