Walton Parish Council

 Budget and Precept for 2017 / 2018

**Introduction**.

The Parish Council is required to set a budget/precept for the coming year. A draft of the precept is required to be completed by 13th January. We are advised by the City Council that along with losing the Concurrent Services grant this year there will be further reductions going forward to 2019/2020.

With this in mind we have to continue to manage the Parish budget closely until we are sure we can maintain a recommended reserve (as advised by the external auditor) of between 3 – 12months expenditure. In the past the Council have agreed not to go below the level of the precept which is currently £5320.

**End of year March 2017**.

Current year end spend is predicted to be £6869. However this does not include any donations which were budgeted (£350). Compared to 2015/16 spend of £7806.80 there has been a significant reduction.

However there are a number of reasons to take into account (as can be seen on the Income and Expenditure summary). Approximately £500 was saved on the grass cutting due to wet weather at the end of the season, one less newsletter, transfer form Sarah to Caroline, legal fees for land transfer and the no donations handed out have all contributed to a slightly lower spend.

Income for the year has been better than expected. We have received £14775 (this includes everything – remaining funds from last year, playarea funds, precept and grants received throughout the year) versus a budget forecast of 13088.28. This increase can be explained by a non forecasted sale of £979 and a grant donation of £800 for the tree maintenance. (the latter is cancelled out in the expenditure area).

Expenditure for 2017/2018

Basic first draft of spend, including non essential and playarea requirements requires £7599

As per last year I have broken it down into Essential and non essential spend and kept Play area separate.

Essential spend – There is the requirement for CALC membership, Parish Council Insurance. The Village Hall insurance should be paid by the Village Hall Management committee (descision taken in the year) so this could be deleted.

Grass cutting needs to remain as per 16/17 budget and maybe higher just in case fuel costs kick in. Tree cutting and maintenance needs to be started in 2017(before March) and will be completed at the end of this year (£500).

Admin and stationary will remain the same however there is £200 budgeted for some initial training for the new clerk.

There is no foreseeable requirement for legal fees as the land transfer has now been completed.

Newsletter is budgeted for 3 issues at £80 a shot.

Non essential spend has been classed as donations.

Playarea costs have included insurance, inspections for maintenance and more significantly an allowance of £250 for actual maintenance. This is a factor that will become more important once the Playarea budget runs out and the various apparatus gets older.

Final precept amount to be finalised after the meeting on 9th January.