

WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Finance notes for the estimated budget 2023 / 2024

Prepared 8 November 2022

1. Income

The budget / precept proposal for this financial year remains unchanged to the previous two years.

The finance working group and Council members appreciate that the economic climate is causing increased concern to households and so the budget remains unchanged.

Any shortfall as a result of parish costs compared to the income will be taken from funds available.

Although grants are no longer available to Town and Parish Councils for the lengthsman and footpaths schemes the finance working group continue to look for any possible available funding.

The Council have been successful in joining the Herefordshire Community Hub scheme with funding granted last financial year – should further funds be available the Council will certainly make application.

2. Payments

Costs are reflected in the anticipated increases - although over the past twelve months the finance working group have closely reviewed various working segments such as maintenance and grass cutting and reduced costs in these segments.

The Clock Tower clock was upgraded last financial year and is now accurate and consistent reducing the frequent previous maintenance visits and associated costs that were required to the original electrified clock installation by another manufacturer.

The pc do not own the Clock Tower and are not responsible for its maintenance - but pay the electricity and servicing of the clock as a service to the parish.

Investment is being made to the play area particularly for the younger teens with a planned new table tennis table / purpose new base. Additional picnic table and tables for chess / draughts are also planned with safe and clean ground base artificial grass.

The younger children's area is also planned for an upgrade with new safety matting for the swings and artificial grass around the slide and other play equipment.

The prohibitive increase in energy costs and all other increased associated costs have regrettably not allowed the annual Christmas tree but other alternatives are being investigated.

Further investment is being made for litter and dog bins and their regular servicing schedules.

Regular reviews of the cost segments for maintaining our parish standards with best value in use.