
Report from Finance Advisory Group Chairman

Finance Report

Part 1: New Playground Equipment Part2: 2021-22 Outstanding Projects

Part 3: Approval of BPC 2022-23 Budget and Precept

Part 1: TO APPROVE FUNDING FROM THE LUCKS LANE CIL INCOME FOR INSTALLATION OF A NEW ROUNDABOUT WITHIN THE BPC PLAYGROUND ON THE VILLAGE HALL FIELD

The playground currently includes two rides for very small children mounted on springs ("Springers"). The items of equipment have broken on a number of occasions over the last two years, including recently. Each time the handymen have to attend to remove the item and temporarily make safe the spring. The damage is not believed to be due to misuse or vandalism, based on eye-witness reports and CCTV records.

In October 2021 members of the General Purposes & Cemetery Advisory Group (GP&CAG) considered the options and recommended that in case of future breakage the springers should be replaced with a roundabout.

- They considered the five available options from Wicksteed Playgrounds and agreed that the most appropriate choice for Buckden would be a roundabout that can safely accommodate children with physical disabilities.
- For any of the roundabouts to fit, we will need to remove the balance beams as well as the balance beams which is included in the indicative prices provided:
Option 1 – To dig out and remove the existing springers and balance beam, supply and install the Swirl Roundabout with new surfacing @ £9,900.00¹ + VAT.

Three of the other options are less expensive than the selected roundabout but none of the other options would be suitable for children with physical disabilities.

This new facility will help to mitigate the impact of the development on the village overall.

The Chairman and Treasurer of Buckden Village Hall Trust have been made aware that this proposal is being brought for consideration by BPC Councillors.

Proposal: That Lucks Lane CIL funding be used to support the Roundabout option recommended by GP&CAG members for the children's playground.

Part 2: TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING BPC PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE 2021-22 FINANCIAL YEAR

The projects in 2021-22 for which funding has already been proposed and/or approved was shared with Councillors in the November 2021 Finance Report.

That projects list has been updated to reflect changes over the last month, as part of the work on preparing the budget and Reserves information for 2022-23.

¹ This price was given on 10th October 2021. As the price of materials is being affected by supply-side issues the price will be reviewed, against those from other potential suppliers, before a final order is placed if this proposal for funding is approved by Councillors in December 2021.

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Chairmen as asked to advise the Clerk and Chairman of the Finance AG if any of their project costs or delivery dates are not as shown in the Appendix to this Report.

Part 3: TO APPROVE BPC BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 01APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

The draft budget was presented, alongside supporting information in the Finance Report, at the November Council meeting to give all Councillors an opportunity to consider all aspects of the budget and provide any comments to the Clerk and Chairman of the Finance AG.

Subsequent to that meeting the budget for the Allotments Advisory Group has been updated using information from their Chairman and their budget now includes a recurrent line for Skip hire, to help the AG members to maintain the allotments in a tidier state and reduce the risk created by rats hiding in rubbish.

No comments have been received so far, other than noted above.

The final numbers from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) on the number of “Band-D equivalent properties” in Buckden to be used for 2022-23 Council Tax calculations are not available at the time of writing this report.

- They are due to be published on or soon after 8th December with the papers for the relevant HDC committee.
- The HDC figure for Band-D equivalent properties will be used at the Buckden PC meeting when considering the year-on year change, if at all possible.

The final date for the submission by the Clerk of the Buckden Parish Council 2022-23 Precept request is Friday 17th December 2021.

Therefore, to assist with the management of the Council meeting, and to ensure that the Precept request is submitted on time, it would be helpful to receive any comments in advance, so that any necessary details can be checked. Please send any queries to clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk with a copy to sashwell@buckdenpc.org.uk

Proposal:

- **That the budget for Buckden Parish Council 2022-23 is adopted**
- **That planned income is retained by BPC to cover in-year project costs and support the management of essential reserves**
- **That the Precept agreed after discussion at this meeting is submitted to HDC by the Clerk before the deadline.**



December 2021 Buckden Parish Council

Report from Finance Advisory Group Chairman

THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS FROM 2021-22 PRECEPT, INCOME AND CIL ARE ASSUMED WHEN CALCULATING THE POSITION FOR 2022-23

If the purchases cannot be completed in 2021-22 the associated funding will be included in Earmarked Reserves for 2022-23

Values shown are EX VAT – adjustment for the effect of VAT on BPC year-end expected cash balance will be made by Clerk & Finance AG Chairman

Lead	COUNCIL-AGREED PURPOSE	££ tbc	NOTES – which AG is responsible for delivering this work?	Update 05 December 2021
RM	Allotments fencing - 3xQuotations	£ 6,698	Allotments AG From BPC Income 2021-22; ND Fencing ££ agreed 04Dec21	RM to order 06 Dec2021 Allotment AG selected contractor
RM	Allotment Bench with plaque	£ 600	Allotments AG From BPC Income 2021-22	RM to order Dec2021 - same bench as at HuntsEnd; add plaque
AJJ	Particulates monitor	£ 285	Climate Change Mitigation AG Budget 2021-22	AJJ to advise - Awaiting Quotations & Planned order date
SA/DP	Zip Wire and Double-sided Boulder wall	£ 12,362	SA/DP/Clerk CIL funding to be used; installation date tbc - March 2022	Ordered - Delivery date then 30-day payment terms
AHJ/RM	New Roundabout for BPC Playground	£ 9,900	To dig out and remove the existing springers and balance beam, supply and install the Swirl Roundabout with new surfacing Dec2021 BPC	
CU/SA/RM	Dog/Litter bin replacements/extras	£ 3,500	Clerk - Identified GP priorities 2021-22; more needed/in budget in 2022-23	Ordered Oct21; additional bins to be added for Valley paths
AHJ/RM	Notice Boards and Village sign repair	£ 700	GP&C AG Earmarked Reserve - village maintenance	AHJ to advise
AHJ/RM	Cutting BPC trees affecting Sreet Lights	£ 500	GP&C AG budget - Tree surgeons to be employed for this work	RM to update with info from quotation(s)
CU	Cutting Willows on Flour Mills Bridge	£ 600	Green Infrastructure AG Earmarked Reserve - village maintenance	CU to advise
RM	Purchase of Oak Tree for Platinum Jubilee	£ 100	Green Infrastructure AG Earmarked Reserve - Purchase & Planting	Ordered; includes additional items
RM	Tree work identified as a priority by Tree Survey	£ 1,000	Green Infrastructure AG Budget/ Earmarked Reserves	RM to update with info from quotation(s)
RM	Biodiversity Strategy	£ 900	Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity AG	Draft Received; invoice to b paid
CU	Complete work at Hunts End	£ 2,000	Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity AG	CU to advise
SA	MVAS units for Mill Road	£ 9,000	Highways & ST In budget - CCC and for additional units MillRd/PerryRd	One unit received, additional units to be ordered
SA	MVAS - additional unit for Perry Road	£ 3,000	Order ASAP	SA to check model and cost
SA	Legal advice on Licence/Lease for new storage	HOLD	Finance AG (chairman) - Earmarked Reserves - BVHT reviewing plans	Unlikely to be required before 31Mar22

Assumed NON-recurrent spend Oct21 to Mar22 £ 51,145 - To be delivered under direction of Advisory Groups