

BALANCES AT 20.12.15

	<b>Current year</b>	Last year
	<b>At 20.12.15</b>	At 31.12.14
• Current Account	6093.22	15909.72
• Investment Account	1569.81	1558.12
<b>Total Parish Council Funds</b>	7663.03	17467.84
Outstanding payments	-100.00	-11033.90
<b>Net Parish Council Funds</b>	<b>£7563.03</b>	<b>£6433.94</b>
	<b>At 20.12.15</b>	At 31.12.14
Social Fund	-4872.76	-3941.41
Working balance	-1076.97	-1033.28
<b>General reserves</b>	<b>£1613.30</b>	<b>£1459.25</b>

**Outstanding payments** were high last year because of grants accumulated to pay for the play equipment and noticeboards projects. In the current year, there is one grant of £100 to be spent on the World War One memorial tree & plaque.

**Working balance** is the net amount of expenditure in the remainder of this financial year (i.e. difference between cols 5 & 4 on pages 2-3, excluding 'Amount to make up general reserves')

**General Reserves.**

“The advice to external auditors is that general (i.e. un-earmarked) revenue reserves usually lie within the range of three to twelve months’ gross expenditure but that the amount should be risk assessed and approved by the Council.” [Barrie Woodcock, SLCC].

It was agreed by the PC in November 2011 that the level of reserves should be raised (progressively, by budgeting £200 per annum) to 75% of budget. If the precept demand is £2931, the current level of reserves stands at 55%.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>ANTICIPATED EXPENSES – 2016/2017</u>	Actual	Budget	Spent to 25/11/15	Probable Actual	<b>Budget Estimate</b>	Explanation
<b>Items recurring annually</b>	2014-15	Current year	Current year	Current year	<b>2016/17</b>	
Audit Charge [external]	0	<b>0</b>	120.00	120.00	<b>120</b>	Charge will be incurred for payments >£10k in 2015-16
Clerk's salary	1326.00	<b>1344</b>	672.00	1344.00	<b>1358</b>	Subject to approval after annual review
Clerk's/ admin expenses	57.02	<b>90</b>	37.68	48.50	<b>60</b>	Subject to approval after annual review
Play equipment - annual inspection	59.95	<b>60</b>	0	59.95	<b>60</b>	
Seats & other assets – maintenance materials	11.98	<b>25</b>	11.94	31.94	<b>25</b>	
SLCC membership	65.00	<b>66</b>	0	65.00	<b>65</b>	
Community Action Suffolk membership	30.00	<b>30</b>	30.00	30.00	<b>30</b>	
Insurance	265.00	<b>280</b>	273.75	273.75	<b>274</b>	3-year deal began 1/12/15
Hall hire	147.00	<b>154</b>	0	154.00	<b>154</b>	6 PC mtgs @3hrs, APMtg @2hrs, 1 other @2hrs [ @£7.00 per hour]
Data Protection Registration (annual)	35.00	<b>35</b>	0	35.00	<b>35</b>	
Ashby Church (donation)	100.00	<b>100</b>	100.00	100.00	<b>100</b>	Customary sum
Herringfleet Church (donation)	100.00	<b>100</b>	100.00	100.00	<b>100</b>	Customary sum
Somerleyton Church (donation)	110.00	<b>110</b>	110.00	110.00	<b>110</b>	Customary sum
Somerleyton Community Association (playing field)	100.00	<b>100</b>	100.00	100.00	<b>100</b>	Customary sum
Suffolk Preservation Society (membership)	25.00	<b>25</b>	0	30.00	<b>30</b>	Fee increased by £5 from Jan 2016
Suffolk Accident Rescue (donation)	10.00	<b>10</b>	10.00	10.00	<b>10</b>	Customary sum
Community Speedwatch (20% share)	41.52	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	Next recalibration expected April 2017
Councillor training	0	<b>0</b>	0	30.20	<b>0</b>	In 2015-16 funded from Contingencies
Uncontested election	0	<b>0</b>	126.42	126.42	<b>0</b>	In Jan 2016 it was decided to pay for elections out of reserves
Contingencies	0	<b>116</b>	72.25	72.25	<b>100</b>	Includes Chairman's Allowance
Amount to make up general reserves	200.00	<b>200</b>	0	(73.58)	<b>200</b>	£200pa until 75% expenditure is reached [resolved at PC mtg 3/11/11]
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>£2683.47</b>	<b>£2845.00</b>	<b>£1764.04</b>	<b>£2914.59</b>	<b>£2931</b>	
<i>Overspend (+) or Underspend (-)</i>	<i>-£161.53</i>			<i>+£69.59</i>		
<b><u>New items on which council may wish to spend</u></b>						
Neighbourhood Planning	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	Clerk recommends using Social Fund
<b>POTENTIAL TOTAL</b>					<b>£3157</b>	If Clerk's weekly hours increased from 3.0 to 3.5, giving salary of £1584
Precept demand	<b>£2845</b>	<b>£2845</b>			<b>To be decided</b>	

The table on page 2 sets out potential spending items for the next financial year. Headings and estimated sums (col 6) differ very little from 2015-16. At the time of writing (21/12), I have not received from councillors any proposals for new spending.

Two items would increase the precept demand if no other items were reduced. External audit is an unavoidable payment, which in error I did not budget for last year. Clerk's salary: I have budgeted for an increase of 1%, which is the employers' pay offer. The unions are due to consult by/in February; they may ask for more, but I expect that 1% will be accepted.

Potential reductions/ savings. Based on spending in the last three years, Clerk's/ Admin expenses can be reduced; I have factored this in above. If the PC was minded to make further savings, it could cut its discretionary payments to the churches and for maintenance of the playing field. However, the PC is not required to keep its budget at or below current levels. Therefore, it is possible to maintain or even increase any discretionary donation. Contingencies might be reduced somewhat.

Clerk's review: I am going to propose to the Chairman & Vice-Chairman that, based on amount of work carried out in 2014-15, my hours should be increased by 0.5 per week. Hence you will see a potential total budget of £3157. This is £226 more than the £2931 which I would recommend if the increase in hours is turned down.

£2931 would be a 3% increase in precept; £3157 a 11% increase.

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Update on Government position on council spending  
See summary doc *Spending review 2015 – briefing note for town & parish councils*

Update to above(!)  
"The Government has today confirmed that the 'referendum principles' which can trigger a referendum if there is an 'excessive' rise in council tax or precept (in England) will not apply to local (town and parish) councils setting their precept for 2016/17." [SLCC news, 17/12/15]

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#### Social Fund

In previous years, I have appended a fourth page to these estimates, showing actual and potential Social Fund spending. However, I think that was complicated and unhelpful. Hopefully the document *Social Fund 2015-16* I sent out on 1/12/15 [email 'Budget & Social Fund – 4 attachments'] and again on 31/12 provides a useful summary.

Paul Douch 31/12/15; checked by N Livingstone