

Great Bedwyn Parish Council

2022/23 Draft Budget Report

13 January 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this document and the attached spreadsheet is to propose the 22/23 budget for adoption by the Great Bedwyn Parish Council ("GBPC") and also to present indicative budgets for 23/24 and 24/25. This document and the attached spreadsheet have been prepared by Cllr Ian Barry.

All councillors were formally requested for their input into the 22/23 budget.

The aim of this budget is to detail the income and expenditure required for GBPC to meet the needs of its parish during the period between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 – in summary to:

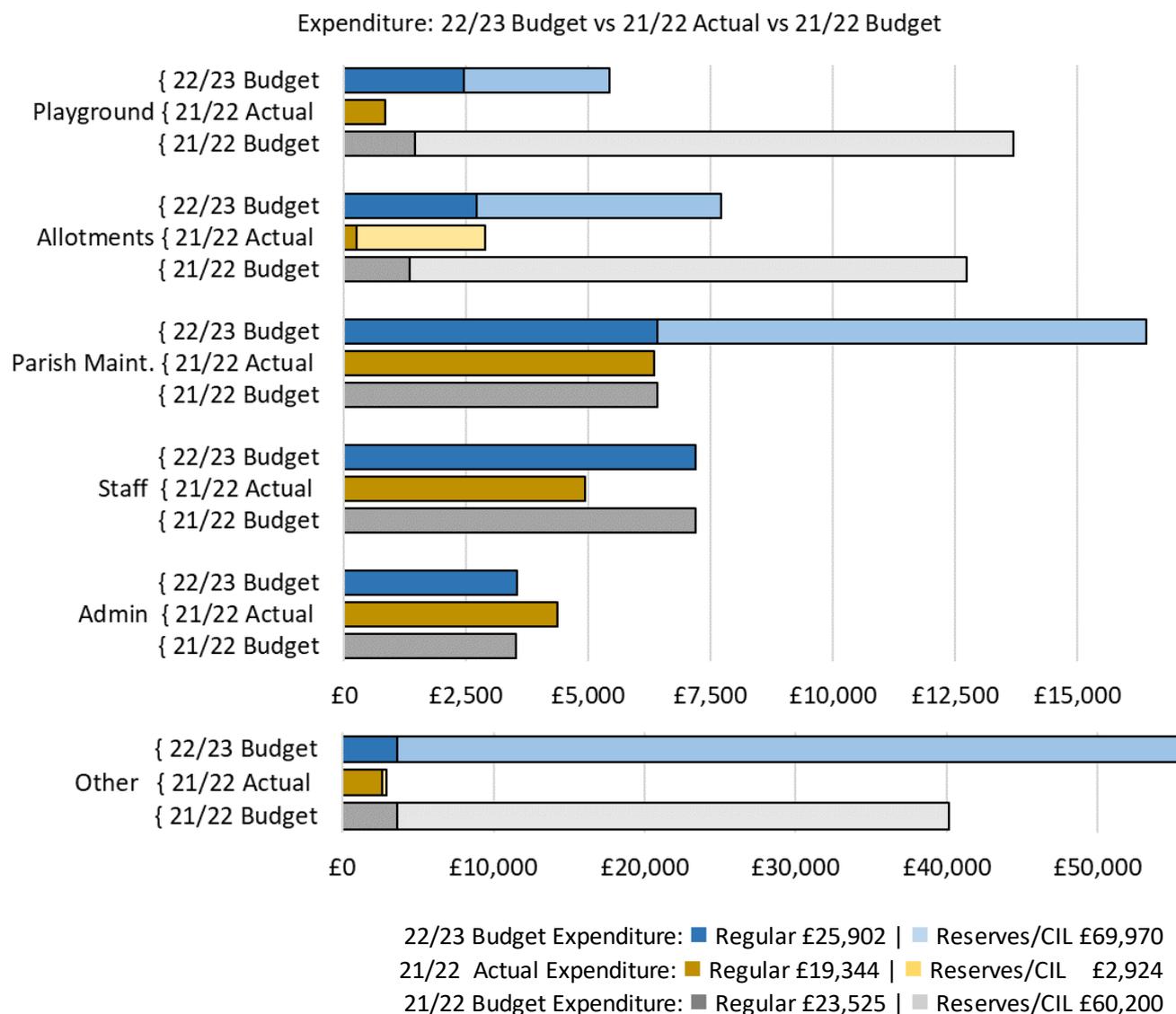
- meet the **day-to-day running of the PC**, ensuring it can operate in a professional and transparent manner;
- meet (the most deserving) **grant requests** in support of community groups;
- **maintain our parish** including grass cutting and hedge trimming; maintain the **playground** – including formal inspections, maintenance and allocation towards eventual playground equipment replacement; and manage/maintain the **allotments**;
- represent the community in all appropriate matters, including importantly in **planning**; and
- fund certain **special activities** as required by the parish.

The budget has been prepared in line with the following principles which are unchanged from 17/18:

1. **Reserves must be maintained as appropriate and only where they can be justified towards specific future expenditure.** This means that excessive reserves must be reduced over time through support of regular expenditure.
2. **That regular expenditure and regular income must be balanced:** The council must ensure it does not commit to regular expenditure that cannot be afforded by its income. If regular income can be acceptably increased, then it should be to match justifiable regular expenditure. Equally, regular income should be reduced (ideally returned to the taxpayer via lower precept) where it is superfluous.
3. **That all income and expenditure be extensively reviewed.** Requested expenditure must be extensively reviewed for fit with the council's remit, demand from the community and value for money. Comparisons with past expenditure have been made and differences scrutinised. Alternatives to funding by GBPC must be considered for all major items. Income sources should be evaluated to ensure they are maximised.

Overall Expenditure

Below is a combined view and commentary across proposed Regular, Reserves and CIL expenditure. The forthcoming year (blue) is compared with the current year actuals (gold) and the current year budget (grey).



Commentary:

- Total Regular Expenditure:** In 22/23, £25,902 regular expenditure is proposed, up 10% on 21/22 due to increased maintenance for the allotments and the playground. The proposed regular expenditure has been scrutinized in line with the principles previously discussed and it is required to be spent for the benefit of the community.
- Total Reserve/CIL Expenditure:** In 22/23, proposed reserve expenditure (£26,170) and CIL expenditure (£43,800) is in total 16% higher than 21/22 (£60,200). This is due mainly to the Green Great Bedwyn initiative and Jubilee Celebrations.
- Administration & Staff:** No significant changes are proposed for 22/23 however there was underspend in 20/21 due to a period without a Clerk and RFO.

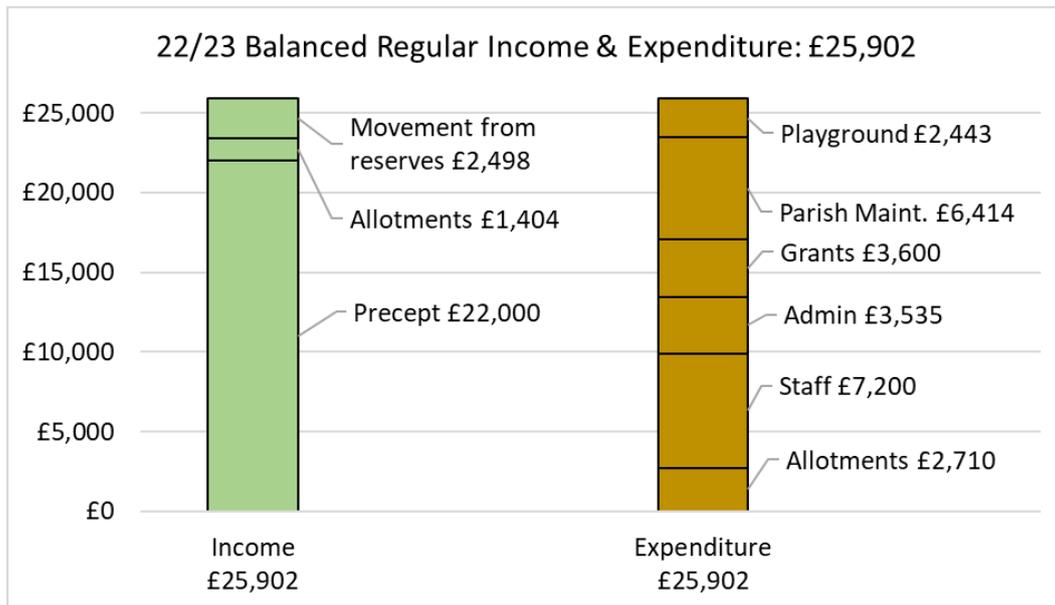
- **Allotments:** From regular expenditure we forecast strimming and clearance of flood ditch and rough areas behind neighbouring property at a total of £1,200 and waste disposal of £350. Also regular maintenance of £660 covering new signs for the main gate, replacement of the gatepost of the main gate and removal of 2 dead trees. From CIL/reserves we propose as approved expenditure £5000 to be spent on enabling wheelchair access to the allotments. This covers removal of old fencing and hedging on Back Lane, installation of a new fence and a two-way self-closing gate.
- **Playground:** Annual inspection costs remain at £110. Bark expenditure of £833 (+£133) is proposed, which will improve the surface. £1500 (+£860) on maintenance is proposed, covering many minor items in the recent safety report. This figure will also cover the repair of the picnic bench (costs to be shared with Village Hall Committee). In addition, there is £3,000 proposed from reserves/CIL for large repairs such as post and beam replacement as highlighted in the recent safety report. We also have allocated reserves of £7,500 (+£500) for the eventual long-term replacement of the playground.
- **Parish Maintenance:** Increased costs of £10,000 for a handyman are proposed during 22/23. It is noted that as well as general village repair and visual improvement work, the handyman would also be able to cover inspection and repair of bench and flood prevention systems. If approved this will be spent from reserves in 22/23. In subsequent years it will be moved to regular expenditure, which drives a significant increase of precept in 23/24 and 24/25.
- **Other (Grants, Projects and Infrastructure):** Regular expenditure grants for unspecific recipients are proposed at the same value as last year of £3,700. From reserves it is proposed that GBPC consider a further £2,865 for unspecific recipients, £135 toward defibrillator repair and £3,000 towards Jubilee Celebrations in 22/23. It is proposed that we approve in line with this budget £6,170 from reserves towards a Green Great Bedwyn initiative for which we have received a grant covering 100% of this. It is proposed that we spend £1,000 from reserves on improving the Parish Website. It is proposed from CIL funds we spend £3,500 on traffic management, £550 on noticeboard replacement, £250 on refurbishment of the Victorian lamppost, £9,000 installing an electricity supply to the village square (for Christmas lights), £500 on new Christmas lights, and £25,000 on expansion of the village hall. Only the Noticeboard and the Green Great Bedwyn initiative are approved; all other proposals will require agreement by GBPC during the year.
- **Precept:** Regular expenditure must be matched by regular income unless there is an excess of reserves that can be used in place of regular income. In 22/23 there is an excess of reserves that can be used to offset regular expenditure increases. Therefore, it is proposed to maintain the precept at £22,000 in 22/23. It is forecast that the precept will increase to £29,500 in 23/24 and £37,500 in 24/25.

Notes:

- 21/12 Actual figures are estimates as the year is still running.
- Regular expenditure and approved reserve/CIL expenditure presented above is approved in line with the approval of this budget. Other reserve/CIL expenditure presented in the above graph is unapproved; it requires agreement subsequent to the approval of this budget and may be spent on other items.

Budget Summary – Regular Income & Expenditure

In line with the budget principles, 22/23 regular expenditure is balanced with income.

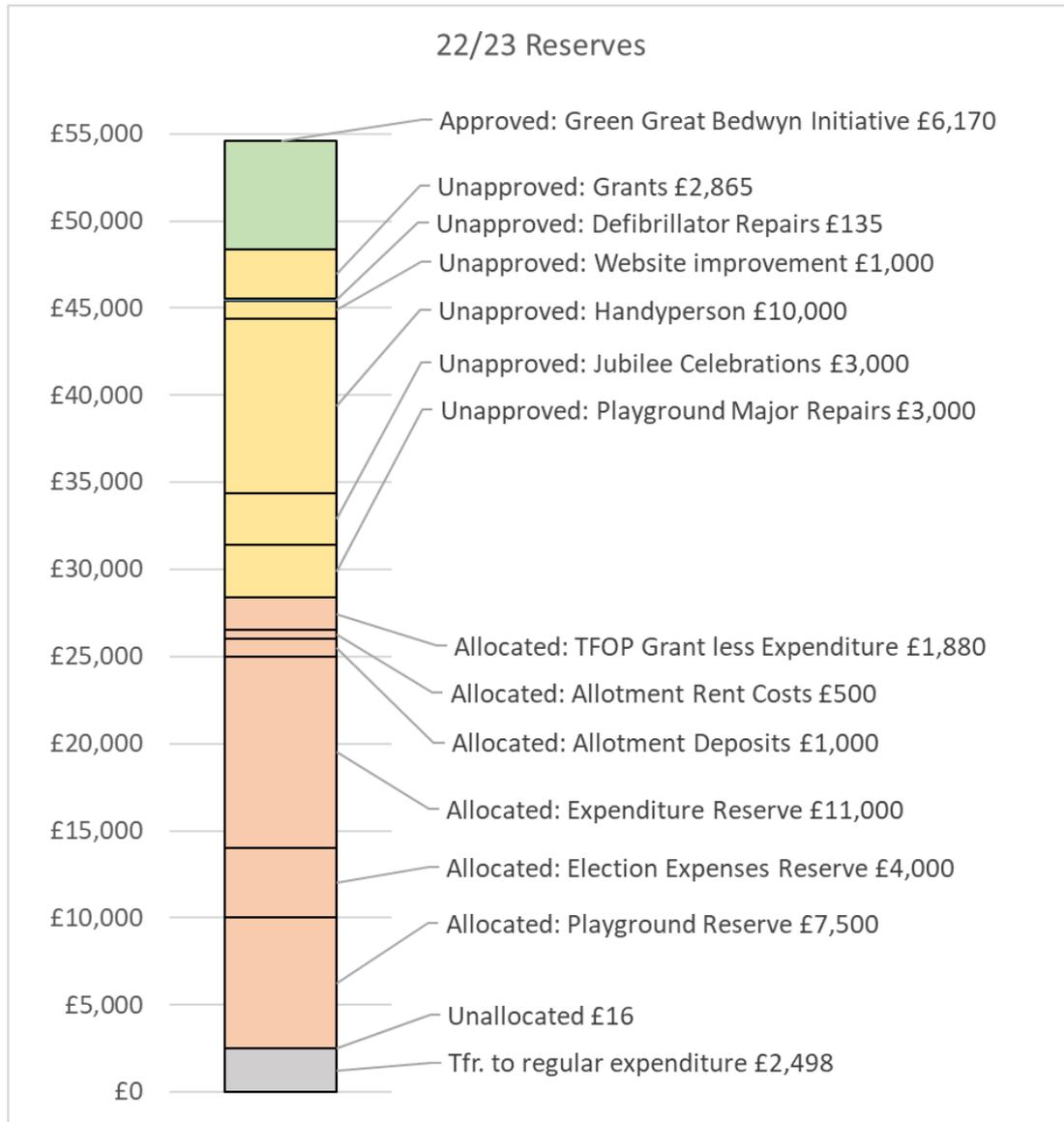


Budget Summary - Reserves

Reserves (excluding CIL) are estimated to be £54,564 at the beginning of 22/23. In line with the budget principles, this budget aims proposes a plan for all reserves as indicated in the graph below.

Please note the following definitions:

- “Allocated” amounts are forecast not to be spent during the year.
- “Approved” is approved for expenditure by the council in line with the approval of this budget.
- “Unapproved” is proposed expenditure which requires council approval during the year.



Budget Summary - CIL

GBPC is estimated to have £56,553 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds at the beginning of 22/23 which is proposed to be assigned as follows:

