

10 January 2022

Budget Report 2022-23 APPROVED

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1. Town Council Priorities and Action Plan

- a. The budget is set to fulfil the Town Council's Action Plan and Priorities.
- b. Full Council resolved these in March 2021.
- c. They are published at www.grangeoversandstowncouncil.gov.uk

2. Reserves/Working Capital

- a. The Reserves Policy was approved April 2021 and reviewed May 2021.
- b. At the Council meeting in June 2021, the Reserves allocation at the opening of the new financial year was agreed, noting that the £2,507 held in Victoria Hall Support Group, and donations, would be spent on the vinyl floor for the glass passage costing £2,541 resolved April 2021 (C20/191).
- c. In November, Council resolved to fund two projects from reserves – a replacement slide at Fell Close Playground (£2,300) and a street workout frame at the end of the Prom (to be costed).
- d. Reserves allocation at the opening of the new financial year approved as below:

Opening Reserves 2021-22

General Reserve	£
Council	100,000
Earmarked Reserve	
Victoria Hall (includes £50k for boilers as quoted)	90,000
Vic Hall Support Group and donations	2,507
Public Conveniences	15,000
Recreation, Play and Culture	52,199
Allotments	2,000
Public Domain	10,000
Professional fees outstanding	800
Public Works Loan Board	11,952
Reserves per AGAR Box 7 March 2021	284,458

3. SLDC Figures and Charges

See also separate Budget Notes for January Meeting for more details of how the increased Council Tax base and the SLDC Lighting Charges may affect household bills.

a. Council Tax Base

This changes each year. It increases as houses are built and decreases when more residents claim discount or homes are empty.

The Council Tax base for 2022/23 will be 2,170.88, an increase of 30.75.

The cost to the average (Band D) household in 2021/22 was £93.91.

The cost to a Band D household with a 2% increase in income to Grange Town Council would be £93.57.

b. Council Tax Grant

This is given by SLDC to each parish to supplement the Precept.

In 2022/23 this will be £8,238.80.

c. Street Lighting Charge

This is a charge from SLDC to the Town.

In 2022/23 it will be £11,606.47.

The difference between this figure and the Council Tax Grant is the amount that is charged to Grange residents and retained by SLDC.

It is listed on Council Tax bills as a charge from GTC.

In 22/23 this amount will be £3,367.67.

4. Staff and Pensions (*Department 1 - Council*)

- a. Core staff costs are calculated at current staffing levels.
- b. Town Clerk and Finance Administrator estimated contingency hours included.
- c. Salaries with effect from 1 April 2022 were considered by the Staffing Committee and approved at Full Council in November.
- d. An overall surplus is maintained by the Council as good business practice to allow for unforeseen expenditure on staffing.

- e. 2% has been included to allow for NALC negotiations though no increment has been agreed yet this year.
- f. Employers NI is included.
- g. Auto-enrolment commenced February 2017. The budget amount represents the costs as defined by the Local Government Pension Scheme.

5. Projects (*Department 1 – Council*)

- a. Projects Budget for 2022/23 is £10,000.
- b. The Projects Budget may be augmented by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments from SLDC and by grant fundraising and donations.
- c. CIL payments to date total £617.25. This was spent on the purchase and installation of cycle racks outside the Library. Total cost of project was £1,405.

6. Christmas Lights (*Department 1 – Council*)

- a. This is a fixed 5-year commitment which expires after Christmas 2022.
- b. £4,544 per annum plus carriage and electricity charges.

7. Accountancy Service Fees (*Department 1 – Council*)

- a. Includes PAYE, payroll, pensions and VAT.

8. Victoria Hall (*Department 2*)

- a. Budget shows £18,000 for Maintenance, Repairs and Renewals.
- b. Maintenance Plan 2018-2022 was reviewed by Full Council in October 2021.
- c. Maintenance Plan 2022-2026 is being drafted.

9. Public Conveniences (*Departments 4,5,6*)

- a. This service is provided at a loss.
- b. SLDC devolved providing Public Conveniences to the Town Council in 2011 and an annual grant was given. This has now been phased out.
- c. The facilities are deteriorating and will need refurbishing in due course.
- d. For the 2013/14 budget, the then Financial Services Manager recommended that the Precept be raised by £3,000 each year to cover the shortfall.

10. Recreation Ground (Department 7)

- a. The Recreation Ground is leased by GTC from SLDC who gave up running the facility as it wasn't viable.
- b. In March 2016, a 2-year contract was agreed with Horton Landscapes to operate it. A further 5-year contract was agreed on 31 October 2017.
- c. This comes to an end on 31 October 2022.
- d. Costs to GTC under this contract are infrastructure maintenance, SLDC annual inspections and GTC monthly inspections.
- e. Works last year included installing the new fence and in 2022 scheduled works include painting the skate ramps.

11. Public Domain Maintenance (Department 10)

- a. Includes Ornamental Gardens wall-top planting (resolved October 2016).
- b. Includes Lengthsman services and a skip for the Lengthsman.

12. Public Works Loan Board

- a. The Town Council needs to generate a budget surplus of approximately £6,000 per annum to fund the capital repayment of the loan from the Public Works Loan Board. The accountant advises generating an annual surplus to cover this.
- b. The interest payments are allocated to Promenade Public Conveniences budget.

13. Surplus

- a. This budget shows a surplus to ensure funds for loan repayments from capital.
- b. Remaining funds will be put towards other projects and:
Loss of SLDC grant towards running of Ornamental Garden public conveniences
or:
Capital replacement costs. The Town Council Finance Risk Assessment (approved annually in October) shows that funds should be set aside annually towards capital replacement costs of assets.