**Budget Discussion**

**For the year to 31/3/2023**

The attached spreadsheet details the projection forward from the forecast to March 22 on a line-by-line basis.

The precept has been left at the current year level.

NO expenditure has been included to replace play equipment at South Ascot, as this expense has been previously budgeted (and precept set accordingly) and as a result funds are already in reserves to cover expenditure at the level of 90 K.

If all income and expenditure runs to the detailed level, there would be an excess of expenditure over income of 17 K. If the precept was adjusted so as to give a balanced budget. This would result in an increase required of 8.2%.

Topics that may merit discussion are (in addition to any that F&P members wish to raise)

**Hanging Baskets Expenditure**

In the current year, Ascot racecourse provided asked a contribution of £1700 in comparison with the previous level of £5400. The actual cost of the baskets is in excess of 17,000. There are around 230 hanging baskets and the cost is £65 each.

Due to the uncertainty of the racecourse contribution it would be sensible to consider the number of hanging baskets that we wish to provide our parish as the cost is in the order of 10% of ongoing expenditure.

**Tennis Court Fencing**

Proposed is £15k to replace the fencing to VF courts. The planned level of income is £300 or 6 families. Are these 2 in line?

Should additional expenses be considered to promote the use of the courts, such as tennis lessons for under 15 is free on Saturday morning or if six families are representative of the use of the court, one could question whether it is worth spending to replace the fencing?

**Party in Park/Platinum Jubilee**

The cost has been included at an estimated £9 K, this compares with the historical running costs of around £ 3K. This year could be regarded as special and as no event has been run for two years, effectively two years-worth of funds has been contained within the current reserves.

The intention is to consider and agree a budget proposal which will be put to Full Council for agreement. This is intended to take place at the meeting on 14th of December (not the meeting on 30th November) within intension of agreeing the absolute figures and effectively agreeing the individual line by line spends and as such agreeing to the project contained.

As required by legislation, a further meeting would be held on January 11 to agree the precept level required to deliver the budget.

RWood 18.11.21