



## 2016 / 17 Budget Consultation

### Parish Council Budget

With the budget cuts or caps being inflicted on District and County Councils, the Parish Council is being forced to look at a number of the services where the higher level councils have requested our support. For the most part these are for services where the higher councils have to reduce what they can provide to a level which meets their statutory requirements, and are looking for support from other sources, such as parish councils, to preserve additional levels of service. On top these new requests for support, we also face increases in the costs for services we already provide.

All of this will make setting a budget for 2016/17 a difficult task, and one where we feel that those who pay for the services through their Council Tax should have some input into the decisions we take. This simple consultation identifies a number of items that fall into the categories described above. We would like your opinions on what we should consider including in next year's budget.

Each of the following six pages introduces one of the items that require new or increased funding from the Parish Council. Read these pages and then give us your views on the consultation page included at the end of this document. Additional funding can only come from cuts in expenditure elsewhere or an overall increase in the budget. In practice, a combination of these two is likely. The aim of this consultation is to provide us with some guidance on how you, the tax payers of the parish, view the benefits of these additional costs.

The Parish Council gets its money from the Council Tax bill you pay on your property. In 2015, the Parish Council share of the annual charge was £78 for a typical Watlington home (Band D). For each extra £1 on your Council Tax above this £78, the Parish Council gets about £1,140. In addition to the Council Tax we get income from various sources such as business contributions for the car park, allotments, SODC support for the public conveniences, and hall or pavilion lettings.

2015/16 BUDGET	ALLOCATED
Central services	£ 56,275
Green space / play equipment maintenance.	£ 18,480
Minor works	£ 2,810
Legal & Professional Fees	£ 1,500
Hill Road Car Park	£ 1,990
Town Hall Grant	£ 7,000
Pavilion and Sports field	£ 7,550
Other Financial Commitments	£ -800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 94,805</b>

**Please respond by 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Finance Committee meets to decide its budget recommendations on 24<sup>th</sup> November.**