

Stocksfield Parish Council
Budget and precept calculations 2022/23

	Anticipated 2022/23		Budget 2021/22		Actual 2020/21	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
1. Employment						
Clerk Salary		18600		17400		18406
Employer NIC		1250		1180		1328
Payroll admin		150		130		134
Clerk's expenses		120		120		0
	0	20120	0	18830	0	19868
2. Administration						
Office Rent		1800		1700		1700
Meeting room hire		650		500		425
Telephone		450		420		359
Stationery		100		100		0
Office Equipment		460		460		133
Photocopier Lease/Maint.		385		385		384
Photocopying charges		180		180		4
Postage * To be removed		0		0		0
Audit fees		700		700		624
Courses and training		250		250		0
Subscriptions		1000		950		989
Insurance		2300		1760		1799
Bank charges		150		150		72
Misc admin		300		300	33	25
Councillor expenses		200		200		0
	0	8925	0	8055	33	6515
3. Environment						
Estate and verge grass cutting		3470		3400		3268
Litter bins		1915		1860		2911
Seats		100		100		0
Planters		100		1600		0
Bedding plants		1100		1100		984
Misc Environment		500		500		27
Grounds Services contract	680	21700	680	21700	680	19153
Grounds Services ex contract		1500		1500		825
Christmas tree		2345		620		610
Bus shelters rent and maint.		200		200		0
Tree inspections		450		450		0
Defibrillators		5850		5850	2200	23017
VATCS maintenance		400		400		354
Climate Change		2963				
	680	42593	680	39280	2880	51150

4. Communications							
Website maintenance		380			375		170
Newsletter printing		2000			1400		698
Newsletter design		1780			1100		660
Newsletter postage/delivery		320			330		100
Misc communications		200			200		360
	0	4680		0	3405		1988
5. Sports Facilities							
Grass cutting/herbicide		6080			6000		5850
Sports field rent	2070	1750		2070	1750	45	2625
Sports field rates		750			750	711	711
Sports field initiatives		0			0		0
Sports field car park construction		0			0		650
Sports field car park loan		3692			3760		3826
Sports field maint. and misc.		2400			2400		8283
MUGA rent	530	100		530	100		100
Covid Business Grant		0			0	7573	7573
	2600	14772		2600	14760	8329	29618
6. Play Facilities							
Grass cutting		2695			2615		2537
Equipment inspection		200			200		200
BEPA maintenance		3500			3500		2307
Kate's Plain rent		100			100		100
Kate's Plain maintenance		1000			1000		660
Footbridge					1000		0
Covid-19							418
	0	7495		0	8415	0	6222
7. Community Support							
Remembrance Service		210			210		39
Burial Board		1900			1700		1900
General (inc grants)		4300			4300		2205
Covid-19 Grants						20000	8000
	0	6410		0	6210	20000	12144
8. Contingency							
Contingency		3000			3331		
	0	3000		0	3331	0	0
Totals, Income and Expenditure	3280	107995		3280	102286	31243	127506
Balance (Precept required assuming no use of reserves)		104715					
Reserves or other sums to offset precept		5709					
Precept to be levied		99006		Precept	99006	Precept	99006
Formal reserves (at 30/09/21)	82,449	% increase	0.00				
General	76,791	Band D	74.72	Band D	74.79	Band D	74.24
Allocated	5,658	% increase	-0.09				
Notes:	Receipts excludes bank interest (which accumulates as reserves)			Receipts and payments exclude VAT			

Notes in relation to the proposed budget 2022/23

The tables provide information about the actual receipts and payments in 2020/21 although it includes additional receipts and payments relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally charges for sports field rental were waived which impacted on total receipts. The current budget for 2021/22 (as amended by agreement of the Council) is shown and alongside that the proposed budget for 2022/23. Members should note that this proposed budget only provides an outline of anticipated receipts and payments. The contingency budget has been amended as a result of the GGAG meeting on 18/10/21 and the last Council meeting and the use of reserves is necessary (£5,709) to offset the increase in receipt that would otherwise occur from the budget, as presented.

Where the increase in any budget compared with 2021/22 is caused by an expected rise due to CPI or other cost of living issues, no comment is made unless there is a specific reason to do so.

Employment.

The pay award for 2021/22 has not been agreed and there is the likelihood of a significant delay whilst the unions involved ballot members on future actions. The budget assumes just under a 2% rise across 2021 to 2023. Whilst the Clerk has not claimed expenses for a number of years, £150 has been retained.

Administration

Meeting room hire. The increase relates to additional meetings of the CCEAG at monthly throughout the year.

Stationery. There was no spending in 2020/21 as stocks were high.

Office equipment. Home working resulted in minimal costs in 2020/21 but there is a need to replace the Council's *Microsoft Office* software, probably with *Office 365* which has a monthly fee. The Council's laser printer is also old and uses excessive toner due to wearing parts. It is unwise to replace the toner cartridges when empty and, despite access to the copier, the use of a standalone printer is advised.

Photocopying charges. Minimal charges were incurred in 2020/21 due to home working and the use of the standalone laser printer.

Courses and training. This budget is available for councillors and Clerk. The majority of training costs have previously been incurred by the Clerk.

Insurance. The Council's three year agreement ends in October 2022 and the cost of insurance is difficult to predict. Additionally the inclusion of the bridge over Stocksfield Burn accounts for the majority of the estimated increase.

Environment

Planters. Reduction after the three gateway planters were replaced in 2021/22.

Christmas trees. The budget provides for three trees, additional lighting and erection/removal of an additional tree.

Defibrillators. As in previous years, a sum of £5,000 has been included for additional defibrillators, reliant on the guidance from members at a previous meeting.

Climate Change. Although the matter is to be discussed at the meeting, the request from the CCEAG for funding for 2022/23 has been included in full.

Communications

Newsletter. The sum assumes 2 x 8 page editions and 1 x 4 page edition including delivery. The 2020/21 payments are artificially low due to Covid-19 when only one issue was produced. Overall production costs have been increasing and this is reflected within the budget.

Play Facilities

Maintenance. The varying figures demonstrate the unpredictability of this area. Many items of play equipment have been in place for some time and the rate of replacement parts is difficult to predict. Despite their age, the equipment is in good condition and its lifespan remains significant due to the availability of spare parts.

Bridge. No inspection needed in 2022/23.

Community Support

Remembrance Service. There is a possibility that PA equipment may be sourced locally in future but it is unclear at this stage.

Burial Board. There will undoubtedly be a request for some funding towards the Burial Board and it is unlikely to be lower than this year. An additional £200 has been included.

General grants. The trend is for this to be underspent unless one or two large applications are received. The Covid grants were an exception.

Contingency

Normally the Council has allocated about 5% of its budget for contingency purposes. The £3,000 currently shown is a result of the GGAG meeting on 18/10/21).

Tax Base and comparisons

The calculations use the predicted tax base supplied by NCC but is subject to change. The comparison table (see next page) showing the budget and Band D equivalent of other town and parish councils in South West Northumberland relates to 2021/22 and is for information.

Reserves

The total formal reserves are shown within the table of which £76,791 is general or uncommitted reserves. The General Fund (the Council's current account) also includes a sum which acts as a float (or operational reserve) to ensure the availability of funds but which is discounted from formal reserves.

Stocksfield Parish Council
Proposed Budget 2022/23

	Receipts (£)	Payments (£)
Precept	99006	
Employment		20120
Administration		8925
Environment	680	42593
Communications		4680
Sport Facilities	2600	14772
Play Facilities		7495
Community Support		6410
Contingency		3000
	<hr/> 102286	<hr/> 107995

Comparison of neighbouring councils (2021/22) for information only

	Band D	Precept total	Pop (2011)
Acomb	100.51	50,000	1268
Allendale	53.11	44,840	2021
Bellingham	80.63	35,295	1334
Corbridge	74.10	128,000	3672
Haltwhistle	127.67	142,500	3791
Haydon	56.06	46,000	2184
Heddon on the Wall	64.10	41,959	1563
Hexham	76.43	333,000	11829
Ponteland	73.87	429,096	10921
Prudhoe	114.54	389,215	11675
Riding Mill	87.52	42,000	966
Stocksfield	74.79	99,006	3011
Wylam	57.16	50,150	1924