

Holt Parish Finances

That's the way the money goes.....

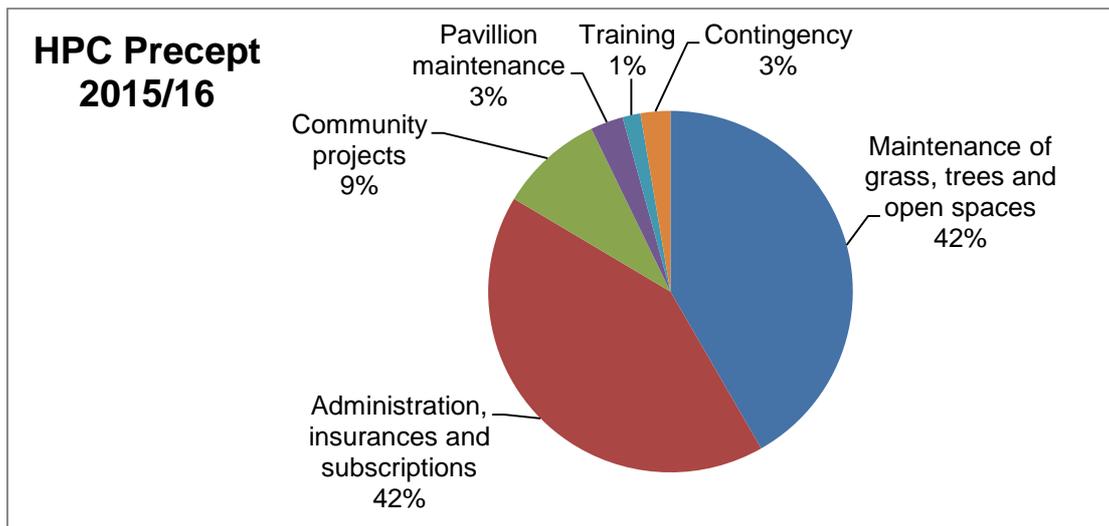
At a high level, Holt Parish Council has two principle responsibilities:

1. To manage the operation of local government at a parish level. This includes issues such as planning, footpaths, and liaising with the police, and Wiltshire Council on issues such as road and pavements.
2. In addition, the council has over the years, acquired certain village assets. These include the playing field together with its sports facilities and playground, Ham Green and Dawes Pond, and other smaller open spaces.
3. The parish council operates within a relatively modest, and tightly managed budget (or precept), which is agreed annually. For the year 2015/16 expenditure is estimated to be £21,000, as shown in the table below, income from hire of sports facilities is £1,350, resulting in a precept for the year of £19,650

What we spend.....	2015/16	2014/15	Change - year on year	
	£	£	£	%
Upkeep of grass, trees and open spaces	8,705	7,825	880	11
Admin, insurances and subscriptions	8,945	8,270	675	8
Community projects	2,100	1,750	350	20
Pavilion maintenance	450	550	(100)	(18)
Training	300	200	100	50
Contingency	500	250	250	100
	21,000	18,845	2,155	11

Our spending has increased year on year, partly as a result of local government spending being pushed down to parish level, and also because of a catch-up on small items of maintenance.

Shown graphically, we see that.....



- around 42% is used to cut the playing field, and maintain other open spaces, including the playground.
- a similar amount is spent on administration, which includes the salary and expenses of the Parish Clerk, as well as insurances and subscriptions.
- some 9% is set aside for supporting community initiatives, such as the Youth Club, developing the Dawes Pond area, and preparing a neighbourhood plan.

- the above accounts for well over 90% of our budget, leaving small amounts for maintaining the pavilion, keeping councilors up to date with legislation, and for “known unknowns”

One consequence of local government spending reviews is that some services (and their associated costs) are being pushed down to parishes or individuals.

And where does it come from.....?

Two principal sources – Wiltshire Council, and parishioners. Currently HPC receives a grant of £637 from Wiltshire Council towards running costs. This amount has more than halved since April 2013, again as a result of changes in government policy. Parishioners fund the remainder through their council tax bills.

For the financial year 2015/16, the amount paid by the average (Band D) household in the village is £26.77, an increase of £1.26 or 4.9% on the previous year. This equates to 50p per house per week, to enjoy the facilities and open spaces in our village.

Richard Goodman
HPC – Chair of Finance