

Parish Consultation Responses

Sinnington

If the Council halved the grant to parishes in 14/15 and then removed it in 15/16 then we would have no option but to increase our precept to manage the reduction in funding. We are a fairly small parish and so by consequence have not got reserves that would cover this amount from next year on. We have no services to reduce and the majority of our funding goes towards maintenance of the village green, footpaths and bridleways and continuing work by the Parish to alleviate flooding as well as the parish clerk fees.

I would imagine that a 5% increase in the Parish precept would cause a few raised eyebrows even though the actual monetary value is very small but an additional Parish meeting could be held to explain to the residents the reasons behind this.

Sherburn

We do not aim to raise our precept unless forced to. Our Council have no reserves to cover any shortfall. In 1967 the parish purchased 51 streetlights from YEB at a cost of £1 each. Now they need replacement and cost £1000 each! We have entered into a rolling programme for maintenance and replacement with NYCC to deal with this huge problem and our reserves are allocated and spoken for. So the only option open to us is to cut services.

This means we would cut our donations (Currently £3,000 pa) to the groups in the village such as the PCC for the grasscutting at St Hildas Church, to the School, the Youth Club where we pay their rent and the Cricket Club whose insurance we pay. Naturally this will hit all these organisations very hard. We also pay £4000 a year to employ a Caretaker who works one day a week and in conjunction with Streetscene.

We would welcome any advice/help Mr Cresswell can give us and re-iterate our desire to work in partnership with RDC to sustain the quality of the services we currently afford and we fully appreciate the Government cuts lead to our mutual problems.

Gate & Upper Helmsley

It was resolved at a meeting of the Parish Council that it would select option B - by using reserves to cover the shortfall.

Allerston and Wilton

The Parish Council would choose option a. They would increase the parish precept.

Thorpe Bassett

If the grant was halved in the 2014/2015 we could make up the difference from reserves.. for 2015/2016 we would increase the parish precept.

We have no services to reduce

Amotherby

Amotherby Parish Council's answers to the questions are:

1. a. Yes b. Already doing this c. None to reduce d. Both a and b
2. No response to this question.

Malton

The Town Council considers that the proposed action is wholly against the spirit and intended purpose of the funding support scheme, and recommends that the District Council continues to channel this support to its intended recipients. It might also consider lending its weight to the National Association for Local Councils' campaign for a permanent resolution of this matter.

For its part this Council has advised the National Association of Local Councils of the District Council's view on the matter, and will take advice from it.

Nunnington

The Parish would choose d) a combination of a) and b).

Gilling East

Councillors received information regarding the Parish Grant and precept payment from RDC 2014/15 and decided that the Clerk should analyse the information provided and comment to RDC by the required date including our concern that the comment would be based on the knowledge that no other outside decrease in income would occur and that we assume the Band D value was calculated in the same manner as in the previous year for comparison. The Council agreed that reserves would be used in the first instance but if electricity and insurance costs increase cuts in street lighting and parish services would occur.

Birdsall

Due to being such a small Council it would have very little effect either way.

Kirby Misperton

Request to RDC to confirm that the basis on which Band D base calculation was made is the same as in previous years and has not been amended as in the year past.

Request RDC to notify the Council how much increase would be required by the Council in the same formula to maintain the current level of service

To note that the response provided within the consultation is only valid should other grant awarding bodies remain able to provide funding.

Hutton le Hole

In the short term Council will accept the "fine" in continuing stewardship and will use reserves to cover the drop in income hoping no other budgetary cuts are experienced but should other areas of income be reduced or greater increases in maintenance costs be experienced the Council will have no choice but to increase the precept or make redundancies.

Bulmer

Thank you for seeking the Parish Council's views re the above. Unfortunately we have not formally discussed your letter nor the draft P&R report. However I will be presenting them at our next Parish meeting.

Bulmer is a very small Parish Council and the impact of the cut will be minimal. I am going to suggest, to my fellow Councillors, that we keep the precept at £1,500 and, if necessary, use our reserves.

Broughton

In response to your letter of 4th July 2013 I would imagine that (we only have 2 meetings/year) we would leave our precept as last year and "dip" into reserves, if necessary.

Wintringham

Wintringham Parish Council would manage the reduction in funding by using reserves to cover the shortfall.

Scampston

The loss of this grant to Scampston Parish Council would amount to £92.60 in 2014/15 and £185.20 onwards from 2016. Although the Parish does have some reserves, as the loss of grant would be year on year, the Council are of the opinion that they could not sustain such

use of their limited reserves. They also feel they would be unable to make any significant reduction in services to make up the shortfall. The Council therefore feel they would be obliged to make up any reduction in funding by increasing the Parish Precept accordingly.

The Parish Council would in these circumstances be very concerned about the level of increase in their Precept, 5.9% next year and more the following year. In view of such above inflation increases, which would be brought about by cuts in Government funding, the Council considers it would be appropriate to briefly explain the reasoning for any increases to the Parish Council Precept within the Council Tax Demand.

Pickering

The council has decided to do no more than to ask that the district council communicate with the minor authority when it has taken a decision about the amount of grant to be given in 2014/2015 and the following year. The council trusts that the timing of the communication will be early enough so that the ramifications can be thoroughly thought through before a decision about the level of precept is finalised.

Sheriff Hutton

Increase the parish precept to manage the reduction in funding.

Luttons

The grant to the parish last year was £30.21. The Council decided to conduct its' usual budgetary cycle and to set a precept without taking account of this sum, which consequently appeared as additional income. The Council considers the future smaller sums to be of little consequence to the parish and will continue with its current practice in assessing and meeting the needs of the parish. This Council suggests that grants of under, say, £50 be stopped and the administration saved, in addition to the grant funds.

Acklam

At the meeting held in the village hall on Wed 21st all those present were in favour of dealing with the reduction and removal of the grant in two ways.

A. An increase in the parish precept providing the amount was an acceptable level for all members of the parish.

B. Keep the parish precept at its present level and make up any short fall by fund raising etc.

Burythorpe

The Parish Council would manage the reduction in funding by increasing the parish's precept.

Ebberston

If financial support from Ryedale and County continues to reduce at a time when costs rise, with limited reserves an additional question should be 'How long can the Parish Council continue to function financially'.

Swinton

If the grant was halved the shortfall would be made up by increasing the parish precept and by using reserves, Members agreed unanimously not to cut services and would only do so if they had no further option in the future.

Rievaulx

We have a small budget and small outgoings, principally used for verge-cutting, essential for safe driving in and beyond the village on very small roads. We should, with the reserves we have in the bank, be able to manage this without increasing our precept at least for the two or three years ahead, even if the grant element in the precept is further reduced.

Thornton Le Dale

The request by RDC relating to a future shortfall in the precept was debated and it was decided by all Councillors that the Precept must be increased to cover this loss.

The Clerk is to contact RDC informing them of the Council's decision. The Council do not have enough reserves to cover the shortfall therefore we will opt for 1 - A Increase the Parish Precept

Whitwell with Crambe

Need full amount so will increase precept.

Slingsby, South Holme & Fryton

The council considered the suggestion, to half the Parish Grant for 2014/15 and withdrawn for 2015/16, and how they would cover the shortfall. It was agreed that there was too little time to look at the figures in depth and that they would have to probably do a combination of all three alternatives, (put up the precept, cut services and use reserves). This would be difficult as reserves were earmarked for replacement of streetlights.

Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Further to Mr Cresswell's letter dated 4 July with regards to the proposed reduction of the parish grant for 2014/15 it is my understanding that the only option available to the Town Council would be to increase the precept.

It is not a viable option to use reserves to cover any shortfall as these are not available to us and further more it would be detrimental to the community to reduce services which are already stretched thinly on account of previous budgetary cuts.

Byland with Wass and Oldstead

The members of Byland with Wass and Oldstead Parish Council have read the letter from Paul Cresswell and in response to the question (1) the councillors have chosen option (b), i.e. by using reserves to cover the shortfall.

Helmsley Town Council

Helmsley Town Council are unable to look at the budget for the next two years in detail until November at the earliest and so will put up the precept to cover any shortfall if necessary.

Oswaldkirk

At Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting on Thursday 18 July I reported the terms of your letter of 4 July regarding the Parish Grant 2014/15. In response I would ask our elected RDC Councillors to take the following comments on board in their deliberations.

In common with all other communities, is already struggling to keep services that they already maintain from the Precept levy e.g.:

- we have a Village Hall which is suffering from loss of rental over the last few years of recession yet fuel costs and maintenance costs have risen. (Maintenance and cleaning is funded our Precept levy).
- we have an area of community ground which we have maintained by an annual grant of £149 from NYCC but in September 2013 this was cut leaving the Parish to cover the cost of vegetation cutting and clearing. (now totally funded from our Precept levy)
- we have a playground which has been built up by voluntary fund raising over the years. (grass/hedge cutting and maintenance is covered by our Precept levy)
- we have instigated a pavement and walkways snow clearance volunteer scheme since November 2012 with 17 active members started with a grant of £250 from Rural Action Yorkshire towards equipment and salt (from Nov 2013 salt purchases will have to be funded from our Precept levy)
- we have visions to further community participation in maintaining the village appearance and activities - most of these will need to be at some point supported by Precept levy funding.

It has been difficult for Oswaldkirk residents to grasp the inflexible terms of the RDC proposals when we do so much on so little - all of which is provided by those who pay full Council Tax at their appropriate level. We do appreciate the RDC coverage of the shortfall for 2013-14 and we do understand that the Localisation of Council Tax Support is a Government construct. We will do an exercise on where we can reduce expenditure to ensure the Parish does not have to cut the services we consider essential to sustain. In the event of our exercise not being able to satisfy the saving requirements the meeting indicated that it would consider adopting 1a.

Aislaby Middleton & Wrelton

The Parish Council resolved that to manage a reduction in funding it would increase the Parish's precept.

Heslerton

Just to advise you that Heslerton Parish Council discussed the letter from Paul Cresswell concerning the Parish Grant for 2014/15. They have decided to take the grant offered, but will be increasing the precept as they have not made any increase for the last three years and costs are rising resulting in them having to use their reserves to make ends meet for the current year. The extent of the increase will be advised to RDC in due course.

Warthill

The schedule of grants paid in 2013/2014 shows that Warthill Parish received a grant of £3.42. This sum is small in relation to the precept for the year of £720.00 and hence the proposed reduction and removal of the grant would not have a material effect on our parish's income. The shortfall could be covered by reserves.

Willerby

Just to advise you, at last night's meeting of Willerby Parish Council, they agreed to take the grant offered for 2014/15, and anticipated that they would hold the precept at the existing level, although this will be reviewed at the meeting in November, when a final decision will be made.

Foxholes with Butterwick

The Parish Council discussed at length the letter from Paul Cresswell, Corporate Director regarding the parish grant for 2014/15. As grant sum awarded to Foxholes is small the parish council consider it highly likely that they could manage the reduction in funding from their existing resources. However they did wish to point out that they may have to consider increasing the precept in the future should a lack of funds make that necessary.

Nawton

Considered The Council Tax Support Parish Grant report and would probably -increase the parish precept and reduce services by looking for a cheaper venue for the monthly meetings and reducing the work the caretaker does around the village.

Rillington

In regard to the level of precept, this will be discussed at the meeting in November at which a decision will be made on the level of funding required. We reserve the right to increase the precept as necessary to meet our financial requirements. Our reserves are insufficient to cover any further reduction in funding due to the precept already being held down for the last few years.

Weaverthorpe

Question 1. If RDC halved the grant in 2015/15 and removed it in 2015/16, the Parish would manage the reduction by an increase in the precept as we do not have any services to cut.
Question 2. We do not have any suggestions for the methodology of distributing the grant.

Habton

Our only response possible would be to increase our Parish's Precept as we have neither reserves to fall back on or Services to cut.

Cropton

I am pleased to inform you that as the grant offered Cropton Parish Council is so small we can manage without it in both 2013/4 and 2014/15.