

Walton Parish Council

VILLAGE GREEN GRASS CUTTING

2022/2023 Precept £8,000 Contract for cutting £6,440 = 80.5% Shortfall of £2,440 funded from Reserves

Options for 2023/2024, assuming only a 10% increase in price (which may be modest) the contract value would go to £7,084 therefore a shortfall of £3,044.

This shortfall can be made up in a number of ways (or a combination of them)

- A Increase the precept to £11,000 i.e. an increase of 37.5%
- B Reduce the cutting area – 40% reduction would save £2,834
- C Reduce the frequency of cut from 14 to 9 would save £2,530
- D Reduce the cutting area by 15%, reduce the frequency from 14 – 12, and increase the precept by 12.5% would save £3,074

Obviously if the contract price increase is greater than 10% then the severity of these numbers increases.

Walton Parish Council – Village Green

Walton has a huge area of “ Village Green”

“Village Green” is protected by laws and regulations so that it remain available for community use by future generations

The Parish Council is the custodian of the Village Green

The Parish Council arranges contract cutting of the Village Green to maintain the current use and appearance.

The Village Green is cut approximately 14 times a year.

Walton Parish Council – Village Green

This year – 2022/23 – contract cutting the Village Green costs £6,400

The Council raises £8000 per annum from the Precept (linked to your Council Tax)

Because of other annual costs, this year, the Council had to dip into reserves to cover the contract cutting cost.

And next year, the cost of contract cutting and other costs the Council meets will increase (inflation is currently running at 10.3%)

This is not sustainable.

Walton Parish Council – Village Green

In the Autumn, the Council has to make decisions about grass cutting for April 2023 onwards.

The current position of cutting all the areas of the Village Green up to 14 times a year is not financially sustainable

Something has to change.

We have set out some options

Its not a definitive list. You may have other suggestions

Walton Parish Council - Village Green

Option A – Maintain the current cutting commitment and increase the precept to cover the full cost.

(Approx £3000 or a 40% increase)

- Option B – Reduce the frequency of the cut

(E.g. reducing the frequency from 14 to 9 would save £2500 pa)

- Option C - Reduce the cutting area

(E.g. reducing the area by 40% would save £2800 pa)

- Option D – A combination of options B & C
- Option E - Stop grass cutting altogether

All these options have consequences and/or opportunities

Walton Parish Council – Village Green

Reducing the area to be cut or the frequency could change the potential use and appearance of the Village Green.

Some people may want the Village Green to stay the same. That costs.

Some people may want a different approach. That may cost too.

Whichever route we take as a Parish Council needs to be sustainable and acceptable to Parishioners.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?