

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MIDDLEHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE ACTING CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF THE TOWN CLERK IN APRIL 2023

### BUDGET REPORT

The Councils accounts for the year 2022-23 have been compiled and are currently under audit by our external auditors. They will be published on our website and made available for public view at the Middleham Key Centre once the audit process has been satisfactorily completed.

Costs for the services the Council provides have inevitably increased during the past year. Despite our continuing efforts to keep costs down, a choice between further reducing service provision or increasing the precept became necessary. The Precept is the share of Council Tax raised from residents to fund the Town Council works and services. Council decided to make an increase of 4% for the year 2023-24. This brings the amount raised from Middleham Residents for Middleham Town Council to a total of £12,750.00 from last years rate of £12,250. This equates to an increase of £1.29p per year for a Band D home, from £32.23 to £33.52 (rounded figures).

Our only staffing expense is for the part time Town Clerk – which post is currently vacant, pending recruitment of a new clerk. All Councillors are unpaid volunteers. We also pay for our share of the heat and light costs for the Council Office within the Key Centre.

This is a summary of the financial status of the Council. We are solvent and working to a tightly controlled regime. We regularly review our contracts and costs and we balance this with the level and quality of safety and services we provide to the community of Middleham.

I welcome any questions. If I am not able to answer them immediately, I will ensure that you receive a written response as soon as possible.

Honor Byford

Councillor

Acting Chair of Middleham Town Council

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023