

Extract from BMPC meeting minutes 12/1/21

11.4 Discuss and agree precept for 2021/22 :

Cllr Ellis had prepared the below report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION

The parish precept data for 2020/21 was as follows:

Precept £85,961.00  
Band D precept per dwelling £51.40  
Tax Base 1,672.40

Key Data for 2021/22 :

Tax Base 1,757.30 ( Up 5% on previous year)

Current Band D Precept £51.40  
Current Average Band D Precept for all of Maidstone's Parish Councils £56.60  
Current Median Band D Precept for all of Maidstone's Parish Councils £54.21

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

The above data highlights that Boughton Monchelsea's current precept is still both below Average and the Median in respect of other Parish Councils in Maidstone.

Likely expenditure of the Parish Council during the medium term is likely to remain high with the need to undertake a substantial refurbishment of the village hall together with carrying out the recommendations as set out in the Colvin & Moggerrige report and the "greening" strategies which are likely to be adopted in the coming years.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS

It was agreed a number of years ago that the Parish Council should increase its precept by 5% in coming years in order to bring its precept into line with the other Maidstone Parish Councils. Neighbouring Parish Councils' precepts for 2020/21 were as follows : Coxheath £49.65, Chart Sutton £54.21, Headcorn £122.56, Marden £74.57 and Loose £83.54, highlighting Boughton Monchelsea's position in respect of neighbouring councils.

It is recommended therefore that the precept should be increased by 5% to £54.00 for 2021/22 in accordance with this agreed decision.

If the Parish Council agrees to increase the Band D parish precept to £54.00 then this will generate a precept of £94,894.42

This increase represents for a Band D dwelling an increase of 5p per week in supporting their Parish Council.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that for 2021/22 the precept for a Band D dwelling be £54.00 resulting in a total precept of £94,894.42.

Cllr Gershon suggested that the Rifgins Trust might be able to assist those residents who may be struggling to pay bills due to COVID issues.

Cllr Munford proposed that the precept for 2021/22 be set at £94,894.42. Seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed by all members. Clerk to return precept form to MBC.

**CLERK**