

Budget and Precept considerations for the financial year 2019-2020

What Do You Think?

Members of the public have asked the Parish Council on several occasions in the past why the Council maintained such a high reserve or why it did not reduce the reserve by paying off its debt instead of putting up the precept. Enquiries with the Public Works Loan Board made it obvious that paying off the loan was not a desirable pathway. In the past few years the Council has therefore dipped into its reserves in order to finance ongoing services. This is, however, not sustainable in the long run and would lead to even higher precept increases in the future.

In order to maintain the status quo after taking some price increases etc into account, the Council estimates that it will require an income of £15,567. Additionally £1,290 will be used from reserves for the anticipated £1,720 election costs, as well as £3,500 for Parish Plan developments.

The Council has received indication that the lengthsman scheme will continue for another year and that the rates will continue as in previous years. This has, however, not been officially confirmed.

As you can see from the figures provided, maintaining the status quo will have to result in an increase in the council tax element levied on behalf of the Parish Council.

A Band D household is considered to be representative of an average English household, therefore all calculations are based around this. Until the exact Council Tax Base is known (usually in January) calculations can only be indicative.

Increasing the annual precept to the £13,667 required to maintain the status quo will result in an increase of approximately £7.73 **per year** for an average household or a cost of **14 pence per week**.

Improvements in services will cost money and, whilst some capital expenditure can sometimes be covered – at least in part – by grants from outside bodies, this income cannot be guaranteed. The Council would at least need to provide the matched funding required by most organisations giving grants.

The Council is trying to gauge as accurately as possible what sort of services you would like and how much you are prepared to pay for them.

To maintain the status quo the average household would be asked to contribute £36.41 per annum in 2019/20. Figures for precepts in Newark and Sherwood District show that precepts for 21 similarly sized communities ranged from £17.40 for Fiskerton cum Morton PC to Walesby at £85.36 in 2016/17. Bleasby was somewhere in the middle that year. Assuming no change for the sampled communities but using Bleasby's proposed 2019/20 figure there would still be 12 out of 21 parishes of similar size in the district with a higher precept.

So Bleasby compares well.

If you would like to see further Parish Plan improvements and developments, the precept will have to be further increased. Please consider the three models offered and indicate which you would be prepared to support financially.

Thank You!