

11.3 Precept for 2020/21 :

Introduction

The parish precept data for 2019/20 was as follows :

Precept £76,963.00

Band D precept per dwelling £48.94

Tax Base £1,572.60

Key data for 2020/21 :

Tax base £1,672.40 (Up 6% on previous year)

Current Band D precept £48.94

Current Average Band D precept for all of Maidstone's Parish Councils £62.54

Current Median Band D precept for all of Maidstone's Parish Councils £49.18

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. Accordingly the Parish Council is not being profligate.

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

Suggested options

It was agreed last year 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 over a period of time as we are still a low rating council but with expected large future expenditure commitments. Neighbouring Parish Council's precepts for 2019/20 were as follows : Coxheath £48.82, Chart Sutton £52.11, Headcorn £116.62, Marden £74.54 and Loose £78.81, highlighting our position.

It is recommended therefore that the precept should be increased by 5% to £51.40 for 2020/21.

If the Parish Council agrees to increase the Band D parish precept to £51.40 then this will generate a precept of £85,961.00

This increase represents, for a Band D dwelling, an increase of £0.047p weekly charge in supporting the Parish Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that for 2020/21 the precept for a Band D dwelling be £51.40 resulting in a total precept of £85,961.

Cllr Ellis proposed that the Parish Council's precept for 2020/21 be set at £85,961. Seconded by Cllr Munford and agreed by all members. Clerk to return precept form to MBC.

CLERK