



2024/2025 Budget & Precept Notes

The Budget

- April 2024 – March 2025
- Plan for all expenditure & necessary reserves (general & specific)
- Needs to be realistic.
- Includes statutory Parish Council duties and responsibilities and chosen projects.
- Must be agreed by Full Council. It is the decision of the whole Council.

The Precept

- The *total* amount the Parish Council requests across all of its tax payers (via Council tax).
- The tax base this year has not yet been advised. It varies slightly, last year it was 1084
- Amount paid by a Band D household = precept divided by tax base.
£24.38 for 22/23 (tax base 1078) The average in England was £74.81 for 22/23.
\$33.28 for 23/24 precept was £36074. Average in England £79.35.

Unless there is a separate income stream (e.g. a PC might rent out land or facilities), the main source of income to pay for all the work the PC does is the precept.

Precept: historic context

- £26,280 since 2016/2017 financial year, £36,074 this current year 2023/2024.
- Previously there were additional Borough Council Grants
- Requirements on & demands of Parish Councils have increased along with usual inflationary increases.
- PC has used reserves to help fund its work in the last 6/7 years, whilst not increasing the precept.

It is recommended that Parish Councils carry reserves of between 3 & 12 months of costs, with smaller Councils needing towards the higher end.

Precept: local context

- 2021/2022 we had the second lowest Band D equivalent of all the 41 Parish/Town/Community Councils in Ashford. Only Stanhope was lower. (Crundale is a Parish Meeting & runs differently).
In 2023/2024 there were 33 with higher band D equivalents & 7 with lower.

There is no maximum or minimum increase, decrease or level (unlike with Principal Authorities). However the PC will need to explain the decision, the precept and what happens (or would not happen otherwise). We did this in 2023 using the delivered Parish Newsletter as well as online.

If you are interested in finding out more (options include a 45 minute webinar) please ask, I can let you know about different training options.