

Extract from BMPC meeting minutes 9th January 2018

11. Finance Report

11.3 Parish Council precept for 2018/19 : Cllr Ellis had produced a briefing note which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He explained that although the tax base had increased due to new housing at Langley Park, the Parish Council's spending was also increasing, for example on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Smith stated that spending money on the Neighbourhood Plan was a wise investment and would allow increased CIL payments to the Parish Council in the future.

Cllr Ellis' briefing note included the following information :

Tax base information

2018/19 Tax base 1496.50

2017/18 Tax base 1357

Percentage increase in tax base 10.3% (due to new residential development at Langley Park)

Comparison with other Maidstone Parish Councils

Boughton Monchelsea band D parish precept for 2017/18 £44.39

Average band D parish precept for Maidstone parishes for 2017/18 £56.41

Median band D parish precept for Maidstone parishes for 2017/18 £53.30

Implication : Boughton Monchelsea is a low precepting Council

Comparison with Parish Councils in Maidstone with similar characteristics for Boughton Monchelsea

The most appropriate category would be all larger parish settlements as defined in MBC's Local Plan

Average band D parish precept for the larger village settlements for 2017/18 £60.18

Median band D parish precept for the larger village settlements for 2017/18 £50.83

Implication : Boughton Monchelsea is a low precepting Council in this category

These comparisons show Boughton Monchelsea in the lower quartile as to the burden of its precept on households compared with other (Maidstone) Parish Council precepts.

With the continued onslaught of spending cuts at both District and County level, the need for Boughton Monchelsea to take responsibility of meeting expenditures previously met at District and County level necessitate the need for the Parish Council to increase its current precept.

The large new housing developments taking place in the parish will result in additional expenditures having to be incurred in order that all areas of the parish are adequately serviced. This will result in additional costs to the Parish Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan is to include a strategic landscape assessment, in particular land owned by Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust, including proposals for improving cycle and pedestrian access routes to the various settlements making up the parish.

The Parish Council needs to be properly funded if it is to be effective in dealing with the future development and other pressures that will arise.

Cllr Ellis proposed that the precept for 2018/19 should be set at £69,752 (2017/18 was £60,237). For a band D property this precept represents £46.61 per year, an increase of £2.22 (5%) from last year's level of £44.39. This equates to a rise of 18.5 pence per month. Cllr Ellis's proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all members.

Clerk to return precept form to MBC.

CLERK