

## **Extract from BMPC meeting minutes 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### 11.3 Precept for 2019/20 :

Cllr Ellis had produced a briefing note which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The briefing note included the following information :

#### Parish precept data for 2018/19 was as follows :

Precept £69,752

Band D precept per dwelling £44.61

Tax base 1,496.5

#### Key data for 2019/20

Tax base 1,572.6

Current average band D precept for all Maidstone Parish Councils £59.47

Current median band D precept for all Maidstone Parish Councils £52.30

#### Matters to be considered

The above data highlights that Boughton Monchelsea's precept is both below average and the median in respect of other Parish Councils in Maidstone. Accordingly it cannot be accused of being profligate.

National Government has relaxed general rate restrictions on Higher Authorities for the coming year to a maximum increase of 3%. Nevertheless non statutory expenditure by them is expected to be further reduced resulting in Parish Councils having to fill this financial hole in respect of costs previously borne by District and County Authorities in parished areas. The need therefore to maintain the precept at a level to meet these increasing demands and to ensure that projects are carried out will require an increase in precept for 2019/20.

#### Suggested options

It is recommended that the precept for 2019/20 needs to be increased by at least 3% but preferably by 5% in order to meet increased demands arising from the new housing developments and implementing the recommendations in the landscape masterplan and management plan produced by Colvin & Moggridge.

An increase of 3% in the precept increases the band D precept per dwelling from £46.61 / yr (2018/19) to £48.00 / yr for 2019/20, an increase of £1.39.

An increase of 5% in the precept increases the band D precept per dwelling from £46.61 / yr (2018/19) to £48.94 / yr for 2019/20, an increase of £2.33.

If a 5% increase is accepted for 2019/20 it results in a band D dwelling suffering a £0.94 weekly charge in supporting their Parish Council.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that for 2019/20 the precept for a band D dwelling be £48.94 resulting in a total precept of £76,963.

Following lengthy discussion between members, Cllr Ellis proposed that the precept for 2019/20 should be set at £76,963. Seconded by Cllr Gershon and agreed by all members.

Clerk to return precept form to MBC.

**CLERK**

Cllr Ellis proposed that, in principle, the precept should be increased by 5% each year into the future until it is in line with the median precept for all Maidstone Parish Councils. Seconded by Cllr Gershon and agreed by all members.