

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

Extract from minutes of extraordinary Parish Council meeting 24th January 2017

6. Correspondence / Items for discussion :

6.1 Parish Council precept for 2017/18 :

Cllr Ellis had provided a briefing note to members in advance, which included the following information :

The key change to the fundamental figures in deciding on this year's precept is that the tax base of the parish has increased from £1288.60 for 2016/17 to £1,357.00 for 2017/18, an increase of some 5.3%. This sort of increase can be expected to happen during the next 5 to 10 years as a result of the large housing developments that are to take place in the parish.

The band D charge in respect of the parish precept for Boughton Monchelsea is still low when compared with the other 37 parishes in Maidstone, being in the lowest 30% of Parishes with our Band D charge in the lower quartile for the 37 parishes. Accordingly our precept is very low compared with our neighbours. Boughton Monchelsea is therefore not a profligate Council.

In order for the Parish Council to continue to perform its important role, its finances must not be allowed to be diluted by not increasing the precept on the grounds that the increase in the parish's tax base provides an opportunity to keep the rate down. A near doubling in the population of the parish over the next 5 to 10 years will undoubtedly result in additional responsibilities, with associated cost implications. Already the Council has taken on the responsibility for the maintenance of the open space at Furfield Park, some £5,000 to £6,000pa and the annual survey cost in respect of the Park Wood Farm reservoir will be £1,000pa. Additionally, with MBC expected to cut back on the level of financial support it provides to its parishes in the forthcoming year, this means that we should take a sensible approach to the 2017/18 precept.

Accordingly it is recommended that this year's precept should be increased by 4%

Cllr Ellis proposed that the precept for 2017/18 should be set at £60,237 (2016/17 was £54,645). For a band D property this precept represents £44.39 per year, an increase of £1.69 from last year's level of £42.39. This equates to a rise of 3.2 pence per week. Cllr Ellis's proposal was seconded by Cllr Munford and agreed by all members.

Clerk to return precept form to MBC.

CLERK