

Briefing Note

The Parish Precept for 2019/2020

1.0 Background

At their public meeting on 15 November 2018, councillors voted to approve the parish council budget for 2019/2020 and to set a lower precept (local council tax) than charged previously. This note explains what the council's budget for next year is and sets out how it manages residents' tax receipts.

2.0 The budget

The table below analyses net income and expenditure for 2017/18, best estimates for 2018/19 and a budget for 2019/2020 for the parish council.

Service Heading	Actual 2017/18 £	Budget 2018/19 £	Actual 2018/19 £	Budget 2019/20 £
EXPENDITURE				
Contract	4380.00	2400.00	2300.00	0.00
Grass cutting	2239.00	1000.00	1000.00	2400.00
Other open space expenses	2437.00	500.00	1000.00	500.00
Salaries	6264.00	6911.00	6800.00	7190.00
Audit fees	200.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Other admin expenses	3521.00	3000.00	4632.00	4000.00
Fees & elections	435.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Allotments Rent	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00
Allotments Expenses (inc water)	182.00	150.00	400.00	400.00
Toilets Maintenance	1503.00	3048.00	3048.00	3300.00
Toilets Water	1290.00	1000.00	473.00	500.00
Highways & Footpaths (strimming)	0.00	1920.00	1920.00	1920.00
Public lighting elec	119.00	300.00	234.00	250.00
Public lighting repairs	84.00	100.00	81.00	100.00
Donations	200.00	750.00	400.00	500.00
TOTAL	22934.00	21559.00	22768.00	21540.00
INCOME				
Precept	25168.00	25168.00	25168.00	20000.00
CTS	1190.00	952.00	1034.00	900.00
Allotment rent	318.00	265.00	265.00	265.00
Local Maintenance Partnership	0.00	602.00	602.00	602.00
Fees & other income	14.00	60.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	46.00	30.00	259.00	200.00
Miscellaneous	2770.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	29506.00	27077.00	27328.00	21967.00
BALANCE	6572.00	5518.00	4560.00	427.00

3.0 Council's cash reserves

Cash holdings at 31 March 2018 were £98,839, and estimated reserves at 31 March 2019 are expected to be approximately £100,000.

The reserves contain £30,622 ring-fenced monies that have been set aside for specific projects managed by the parish council. In September 2018, the parish council transferred £60,000 to a call account that is managed by Cornwall Council. The reason for doing this was so that the surplus funds held by the parish council could be held in a secure and risk-free deposit facility that would earn a higher rate of interest than that currently available from the commercial sector.

The precept for 2019/2020 has been agreed at £20,000. This is a decrease of £5168 or 21% compared to the precept for 2018/19. The cost to a Band D property is a reduction from £40.72 in the current year to £32.36.

4.0 How the council uses your money

Menheniot Parish Council is in process of agreeing a Neighbourhood Development Plan and expects that there will be projects arising from the consultation that may be taken forward in 2019/20. Several highways projects have been discussed by councillors (car park refurbishment in Menheniot, minor roadworks to improve safety at Doddycross), and grant funding will be applied for in the New Year. However, should the applications be unsuccessful, councillors may consider funding the works from reserves.

Details of any proposals will be discussed and where appropriate, agreed at the public meeting. Visit www.menheniotparishcouncil.org.uk to download a calendar of meetings and updates of the forward plan.

The parish council owns and maintains two open spaces which are freely available to residents and visitors: the playing field (Menheniot village) and the recreation area at Merrymeet. Over the past three year, the parish council has distributed almost £30,000 in grants to its volunteering groups and in the new year, will carry out a review of its Community Grant fund and Donations fund. In the last 12 months, the council is proud to have provided financial support to the Menheniot Sports Association and St Lalluwys Church. It has also worked alongside the Royal British Legion to refurbish the war memorial and village green area in preparation for the centenary of the ending of World War One.

In addition to its financial support for the parish, the council owns and maintains the public toilets in Menheniot village, the bus shelters in Menheniot, Merrymeet and on the A38 by The Hayloft as well as carrying out other grass cutting, footpath maintenance and weed killing.

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