

Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council 2020-2021 Budget Statement

The Parish Council raises revenue to help meet its spending requirements by issuing a 'precept'. This is the total amount to be raised through the council tax from all the dwellings within the parish area. The 'precept' is converted into an amount per council tax band and this forms part of the council tax bill.

Each year the Parish Council decides what precept they need to set by looking at spending to date in the current financial year, projected spending for the coming year, future plans and any other income they may have.

The Parish Council at its meeting on 21st November 2019 resolved to approve the budget and precept requirement for 2020-2021.

The bullet points below will provide an explanation for the precept requirement increase for 01st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

1. The precept requirement for 2020-2021 is £20,759.
 2. The Council Tax requirement for 2020-2021 is £85.57 per Band D property. This is an increase of 45.8% or £26.89 in Council Tax.
 3. NALC (the National Association of Local Councils) recommend that Parish Councils keep General Reserves at a level of between 3 and 12 month's precept. Therefore, to maintain adequate financial reserves, the Council has allocated £2,000 under 'General Reserves'. This includes part of a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies.
 4. The Parish Council agreed to add £200 to its Reserves, this is to cover the costs of replacing the clerk's office equipment as required.
 5. During 2019-2020, the Parish Council converted its existing street lighting to energy efficient, LED technology. The project is part of a scheme offered by Leicestershire County Council whereby the Parish Council can pay for the capital cost of conversion over 5 years. The Parish Council has already paid the 1st instalment of £1,984.22 and made provisions in the 2020-2021 budget for the 2nd instalment.
- The expected savings in maintenance and energy costs are factored into the 2020-2021 budget. Therefore, the Parish Council has reduced its street lighting energy budget by £1,600 and its maintenance budget by £300.
6. The Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Bitteswell with Bittesby. As some of the costs involved may not be covered by grant funding, £2,000 has been allocated towards this.
 7. The cost of cutting the grass in the parish has increased. This revised figure is now in line with what other contractors in the area charge. This still remains cost competitive and the Parish Council receive a first class service from its current contractor.

The Parish Council is taking legal advice to resolve a long standing issue relating to The White Cottage. To cover this cost £1,000 has been added to the budget.