



Batheaston Parish Council

Precept Setting for 2021/22

October 2020

Catherine Gregory, Chair, Finance Committee



Timescales for setting the precept for 2021/22 FY

- The parish council is required to set the Precept in January 2021
- Working back from that requirement we need to agree a budget in December 2020
- The Finance Committee request all councillors submit proposals to be considered for inclusion in the budget by Wednesday, 11th November. This will allow preparation time for a budget to be proposed to the December meeting of full council.
- Projected end of FY 2020/21 closing balance £42k (current annual precept is £50.4k)

Timescales for setting the precept for 2021/22 FY

Budget
proposals from
all councillors
12th November

Budget
proposed to
full council 15th
December

Precept
proposed to
full council 26th
January

Summary of Financial position at the 6 month Review for 2020/21 FY

- The parish council has seen some reduction in income due to Covid19 restrictions preventing the hire of the Rhymes Pavilion and closure of the public toilets
- The budget was reviewed in August and the majority of capital spend was removed
- Spend at the half year point is tracking the budgeted spend
- Calculated annual “running costs” for BPC in 2020/21 are £37k (excluding grants and capital items)
- Projected end of FY 2020/21 closing balance £42k (current annual precept is £50.4k)

Key issues for BPC – raised Jan 2020

- Poor communications, lack of visibility of BPC work – *progress has been made on this, may require some further funding in 2021/22*
- Need to control/reduce running costs – *the FinCo have introduced controls and the new business system is expected to deliver some efficiencies.*
- Current precept just about meets running costs + grants the BPC has historically committed to (Youth Club and others) – *no progress*
- No significant funds available for improvement projects – *no progress*
- Capital projects can only be funded through grants and CIL – *no progress*



What is the council strategy for the future?

- Current “running costs” of the PC are 75% of the precept
- The BPC achieve little benefit to the village for this cost
- We need to consider our overall future strategy whilst forming the budget, and by implication, the Precept for 2021/22
- We also need a strategy for involving the wider community. The current 13 councillors cannot implement projects without more support
- What do we want to have achieved this time next year? Or in 2 year's time?