

Council meeting:	21 st January 2021	Agenda item:	20/013.d
Action:	Proposed: To agree the budget for 2021/22		

The Council is proposing an increase of £13,000 in the amount of regular expenditure to maintain the parish undertaken during the year 2021/22, from £37,000 in 2020/21 to £50,000 in 2021/22. The main reasons for this increase are:

- £4,000 deferred expenditure from 2020/21, primarily relating to maintenance of the village pond and legal fees.
- £4,000 new expenditure related to the survey and maintenance of trees on parish council land, an ecology survey of the village pond and a proposal to improve verges in the parish.
- £2,500 contingency for unforeseen expenditure.
- £2,000 increased expenditure on personnel costs and grants to support parish activities.

To fund this increased expenditure the council proposes to:

- Use £12,000 of reserves being the surplus brought forward from 2020/21 out of reserves totalling £60,000.
- Increase the precept by 5% generating an additional £1,000.

Although not all the expenditure being incurred in 2021/22 will be repeated every year it is possible that the precept will need to increase in future years to fund the increased investment in parish infrastructure.

Although the precept rate has fluctuated over the last six years, on average it has increased by less than 0.7% for a Band D household and in 2019/20 was the 84th lowest in terms of precept per elector in Hertfordshire. The proposed increase will see the precept for a Band D household increase from £25.81pa to £27.10pa, an increase of £1.30 per household per annum.

In addition the Council intends to undertake the following one-off investments in 2020/21:

- The installation of artificial grass in front of the goalmouth on Spencer Holland
- A noticeboard on The Green with the village map
- For the play equipment on Spencer Holland, either
 - To repair and repaint it, or
 - To create a reserve to fund the purchase of new play equipment at some stage in the future.

Details of the proposed budget are given below.

v1	2020/21	2021/22
	Year end projection	
Regular income		
Borough Council general income	21,028	21,721
Open spaces income	25,821	20,189
Other regular income	2,335	1,672
Total regular income	49,184	43,582
One-off income	-	2,000
Total income	49,184	45,582
Regular expenditure		
Personnel	9,597	10,500
Administration	4,248	5,620
Highways	552	2,410
Open spaces maintenance	20,938	26,992
Grants/donations	1,350	2,500
Contingency	-	2,401
Total regular expenditure	36,685	50,423
One-off expenditure	-	31,000
Total expenditure	36,685	81,423
Net income/expenditure	12,499	-35,842
Brought forward	47,357	59,856
Total cash at year end	59,856	24,014