

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Date	09/01/18
Agenda Item No	8
Title	Parish Council Budget and Precept 2018-19
	This report sets out the suggested budget for the Parish Council for 2018-19 together with options for raising the precept for that year.

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The first appendix to this report sets out the current position regarding the 2017-18 budget and the forecast end of year position. Councillors will see that there is an estimated underspend on the overall budget at year end of approximately £5,500. The vast majority of the budget items have recorded an underspend with the only exceptions being training, computer & software, bus shelters and VAT. In the case of the latter 2 items, of the £580 spent on repairing the glass in 2 bus shelters, £330 was recovered from our insurers whilst all the VAT paid was or will be reclaimed from HMRC.

The second appendix sets out the suggested budget for 2018-19 which the Parish Council are asked to approve.

With regard to the proposed precept, I would point out that in 2017-18 the level of precept received was £20,438 plus £1492 parish grant giving a total of £21,930. The Parish Council had in fact agreed a precept of £21,930 plus the parish grant (total £23,422) but due to a misunderstanding between the changeover of Clerks and the District Council, the precept application was made for £21,930.

Moving ahead to 2018-19, the Parish Council has 2 options:-

- 1) Set a budget requirement of £23,422 which would be made up of a precept of £21,930 plus the grant of £1,492.
- 2) Set a budget requirement of £21,930 which would be made up of a precept of £20,438 plus the grant of £1,492.

The tax base for 2018-19, the tax base has increased slightly to 1301.46. Under Option 1, this would mean that the band D levy would increase from £16.19 to £16.85 and would equate to an increase of 4.1%. Under Option 2, the band D levy would decrease to £15.70, a decrease of 3%.

The budget under Option 1 would be funded as follows:-

Estimated balance as at 31/03/18	£26,000
2018-19 Precept	£21,930
2018-19 Parish Grant	£1,492
Total	49,422

The budget under Option 2 would be funded as follows:-

Estimated balance as at 31/03/18	£26,000
2018-19 Precept	£20,438
2018-19 Parish Grant	£1,492
Total	47,920

The Parish Council need to consider which option they are prepared to support. I would point out that either option would still support the working budget and give a significant level of unallocated funds at the start of the year.

The following points to bear in mind are:-

- 1) The budget item of £8,000 for Smartwater includes the £2,500 grant from Cty Cllr Peter Tomlinson.
- 2) The above figures do not include the following funds:-
 - i) Scottish Widows Account £10,000
 - ii) HSBC deposit Account £6,360

The final figures on the budget will be reported to the April meeting of the Parish Council but will not impact on the budget figures other than a possible adjustment to the level of unallocated funds.

P r o p o s a l	<p>The Parish Council are therefore asked to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the budget for 2018-19 as proposed • Decide whether to set the precept for 2018-19 in line with Option 1 or Option 2 as set above.
Risk	Medium
Author	N Gulliver Responsible Financial Officer
Date	03/01/18