

STATEMENT REGARDING CHARLTON KINGS PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/20

Charlton Kings Parish Council (CKPC) consists of 17 unpaid councillors supported by 3 part time employees, including the Parish Clerk. We endeavour to support, maintain and improve the Parish for its inhabitants. Our future projects are based on our Parish Plan which was produced after a parish wide survey to elicit issues people regard as important.

Increase in precept in 2019/20

Your Council Tax bill for 2019/20 shows an increase in the parish precept for the coming year. When Charlton Kings parish was created in 1995, the precept was set by the Borough Council at a low level, and successive years have mostly seen only small increases to cover the costs of inflation. Nevertheless, the Parish Council chose to take on additional responsibilities, taking control of the Stanton Hall, building new public toilets, an office and a conference room.

Nationally, in 2018/19, the average precept levied by the 8839 Parish Councils in England was £61.03. In Charlton Kings it was £17.00. This year, we need to ask the community for its financial support to cover the long-term costs of our most ambitious challenge yet - rebuilding the Kings Hall into a modern community facility. We have prepared our long-term plans and budgets to fund this scheme and the £4.69 increase in our precept is to fund this project together with bringing the Grange Field back under local control so that more and better events can be organised. We have also increased our staffing capacity to enable us to provide a better service.

How the precept is used to benefit local residents

The precept continues to support our regular activity which includes the following:

- We maintain 4 allotment sites totaling 250 plots. Two years ago, we started an annual prize giving which improved the standards of allotment management while the prize giving day provided an enjoyable social event for many allotment holders. This year we will provide toilet facilities and raised plots for less able people.
- We scrutinise all planning applications in the Parish at fortnightly meetings where the public can give their views and listen to our discussions.
- We maintain winter salt bins and bus shelters in the parish.
- We run the summer and Christmas Fayres in Church Piece and Grange Field.
- In liaison with other bodies, we help to maintain footpaths and bridleways. This year we will install noticeboards at strategic sites to map footpaths for walkers.
- We chair the Ravensgate Common management committee.
- We support local organisations with grants. Regular recipients are FOLK, Charlton Kings in Bloom and the ATC.
- We deploy "Safer Parish" speed monitors at various points around the parish. These help to reduce speeds on key roads by flashing a vehicle's speed on a digital display. In addition, the equipment provides valuable data on traffic volumes and speed.
- Two years ago, we initiated CK Connect, a networking group for people who work from home in Charlton Kings and this is now a viable self-supporting group.
- This year we will start a new programme to reach out to help lonely and vulnerable parishioners.
- We have taken on the responsibility for Grange Field, which we will use to host more events for the community.
- A few years ago, we refurbished the Stanton Suite which, in addition to the Parish Council office provides a hall and a conference room which are enjoyed by many local groups; as well as the public toilets that would otherwise have been closed.

CHARLTON KINGS PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET FIGURES 2019/20

Precept			
Tax base	4,972.3		(2018/19 4935.4)
Band D Precept	£ 21.69		(2019/19 £17.00)
Precept	£ 107,855		(2018/19 £83,888)
Increase	£ 23,967	28.6%	
Increase per Band D	£ 4.69	27.6%	
Band D precept	£ 0.42	per week	
Band D precepts in other parish councils in 2019/20			
Prestbury £ 21.82, Leckhampton & Warden Hill £ 18.74, Swindon Village £17.56, Hatherley £10.18			

BUDGET PROPOSAL SUMMARY				
<i>Showing % of total income</i>	2019/20		2018/19	
Income				
Precept	107,855	81%	83,888	77%
Council tax support grant	-		1,318	1%
Stanton Suite room hire	13,000	10%	13,000	12%
Police contribution for use of Stanton Suite	1,500	1%	1,500	1%
Allotment rents & water charges	11,100	8%	9,600	9%
Total income	133,455		109,306	
Expenditure				
Staff costs	50,500	38%	48,000	44%
Administration	17,550	13%	17,350	16%
Stanton Suite & public toilets	15,150	11%	11,450	10%
Allotments	10,250	8%	8,250	8%
Community projects	5,600	4%	5,050	5%
Grange Field	3,450	3%	5,000	5%
Grants and donations	2,500	2%	2,500	2%
Election provision	1,000	1%	1,000	1%
Total expenditure before exceptional costs and finance costs	106,000	79%	98,600	90%
	27,455		10,706	
Exceptional and Finance costs				
Kings Hall	21,750	16%	5,000	5%
Loan repayments*	6,455	5%	6,456	6%
Bank interest receivable	(750)	-1%	(750)	-1%
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* Loans totalling £105,000 repayable over 25 years taken in 2013 from the Public Works Loan Board to fund the Stanton Suite refurbishment