



Report ABPC/17/17

To: Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.

Date: 15th January 2018

Status: Public Report

Subject: Budget and Precept 2018/19

1. **SUMMARY:**

This Report concludes the budget making process for 2018/19 and makes recommendations to enable the Council to set its precept for 2018/19 and to notify the tax collecting authority in accordance with statutory legislation.

2. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION.**

The Parish Council is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:

1. The Council must approve its Precept for 2018/19 and to notify the principal tax collecting authority in January 2018.
2. The approval of the budget makes provision for a spending plan next year.
3. The Parish Council must make provision to cover its liabilities and service growth proposals for 2018/19 and beyond.
4. The Parish Council needs to provide for adequate reserves in the event of a sudden unforeseen, or unplanned, expenditure demand.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/17/17.**
2. **To determine the Parish Council's budget for 2018/19 as either Option 1, 2, 3 or 4 as set out in the attached Appendix.**
3. **To confirm the Precept for 2018/19 in accordance with the provisions in Sections 39, 41 and 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
4. **To authorise the Parish Clerk to sign the Precept demand on the Borough Council.**
5. **To retain and use the Grant policy submitted with this report.**

4. **INTRODUCTION:**

This Report concludes the budget making process for 2018/19. The Parish Council must now determine its precept level and budget requirements for 2018/19, taking into account:

1. Expenditure falling due in 2018/19 to carry out its functions.
2. Appropriate amounts for contingencies.
3. The need to provide adequate reserves.
4. Any expenditure incurred in 2017/18 not yet paid.

5. **BUDGET 2018/19**

The Responsible Financial Officer commenced the council's budget making process by

reviewing its expenditure over the last two years as well as examining the remaining funds held in respect of Section 106 agreements resulting from the various developments that have taken place, and in progress in the Village.

Option 1: has been prepared on the basis of retaining the Band D equivalent at the same level as for 2017/18.

Option 2: has been prepared allowing for an increase in the Band D equivalent of 2.28%, the same as the proposed increase in the Borough Council element (£3.50), resulting in an increase of £1.09 per annum, 2p per week.

Option 3: has been prepared allowing for an increase in the Band D equivalent of 3p per week, £1.50 per annum which equates to 3.13%.

Option 4: has been prepared allowing for an increase in the Band D equivalent of 4p per week, £2.00 per annum which equates to 4.16%.

Options 2,3 and 4 contain proposals for a new expenditure entitled grants, these funds are to be used in conjunction with the Parish Council grants policy which is attached. The Council is asked to consider if it wishes to amend this policy.

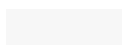
It has been confirmed by the Department for Communities and Local Government that referendum principles will not be applied to Parish Councils when setting precepts for the next three years, however it is expected that constraint will be used when setting budgets.

6. **CONCLUSION**

The Parish Council needs to determine its Budget and Precept Requirements to fund expenditure for 2018/19 and beyond. The Parish Council is, therefore required to agree and confirm its spending plans for the next year.

7. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.**

If you have any queries about this report please contact the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council Tel.: 01233 721757 or email: clerk@ald-bonnpc.kentparishes.gov.uk prior to the meeting.



Notes to accompany the 2018/19 Budget options.

Expenditure.

Allotments	No change	
Audit	No change	
Chairman's Expenses	Removed from options 1,2,and 3	This budget has not been used in recent years and has been included in the Council's General Reserve.
Contingency	Removed from Options 1 and 2 included at a much lower figure in options 3 and 4	The Contingency is set for unexpected/unforeseen expenditure during the year where a budget has not been set. The Parish Council holds reserves which could cover such expenditure.
Donations	No change	
Dog Waste Bags	New item	This expenditure has been made from the Miscellaneous budget in previous years.
Electricity/telephone	No change	
Grants	New item	An annual sum to be available for applications received under the Parish Council's grant awarding policy.
Grounds maintenance	Increase of £1,500	The tender documents have been issued for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 season and are awaited. Allowance is being made for additional cuts due to unseasonal growth and for the maintenance of the Council's own equipment.
Hire of Halls	No change	
Insurance	No change	
Miscellaneous	Reduced	The cost of dog waste bags has been removed from this heading as well as reduction in level to reduce demand on precept.
Playground reserve	Removed from budget	As per Council decision in December 2017
Staff costs	Increased by £2,000	The Clerk's position was independently reviewed in 2017 resulting in a salary increase and there is to be a 2% increase under a

		national agreement in 2018.
Stationery	No change	
Subscriptions	No change	
Training	Increase of £200	There will be additional training courses for the Clerk to attend as a result of changing legislation and working practices.
Reynolds	New item	As agreed by the Parish Council in December payments to the Reynolds Playing Field Charity for the MUGA sinking fund.

Income

Precept	As per the options	The sum required to balance the income against the proposed expenditure.
Concurrent grant	No change	
Council tax support grant	Increase of £130	Figure set by Ashford Borough Council
Interest	Reduction of £20	Reduced due to the low rates of interest available on the Parish Council's monies.
Miscellaneous	No change	
Transfer A/M Maintenance fund	No change	This may be reviewed following the award of the grounds maintenance contract.
Grounds maintenance	New item	Ashford Borough Council have committed to pay the Parish Council to maintain the Borough Council land on its behalf
Allotments	New item	Not previously specified