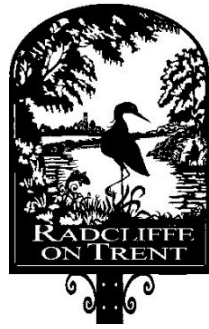


Officer Report to
Full Council
Report Author: Belina Boyer
Report Date: 18/01/2024



Budget Proposal resulting in Precept Request

Introduction

The parish council “needs to prepare and approve a budget in a timely manner before setting a precept or rates and prior to the commencement of the financial year”. (JPAC Practitioners Guide 2023)

Rushcliffe Borrow Council expects to receive the precept request by 01 February at the latest.

The council experienced a huge drop in its tax base for 2023/24 following the creation of a separate Upper Saxondale Parish Council. Whilst there has been a slight increase in the tax base from last year, the 2024-25 tax base of 3112.7 is still significantly below the 2022/23 levels.

This drop in tax base meant that the overall budget needed to be reduced.

Considerations

The precept amount is based on the considerations of the budgeting process. All committees presented their “wish” budgets. The Budget working group has attempted to balance the budget in a fair and considerate way without overburdening the local tax payers.

The budget working group presented a budget proposal that was approved by the F+GP committee. Since then, there has been some new information available which affected both income and expenditure budgets.

It has been possible to balance the budget so not to affect the precept requirements.

The condition reports received in the last few months and the collapsed culvert on the football pitch on Wharf Lane, are likely to require expenditure that has not yet been budgeted for. This will need to be taken from reserves.

Local councils have been subjected to price rises in many of the goods and services they purchase. Although gas and electricity prices have eased somewhat, they are still at a higher level than two years ago.

The revised budget as presented will result in a slight increase in council tax but in return will allow the council to move urgent projects that had been on halt for months and sometimes years to move forward.

The proposed precept request will result in an annual increase of £5.06 per annum for the average Band D household. This is equivalent to an increase of less than ten Pence per week.

Recommendation

To approve the budget proposal as presented in its third draft.

To approve the precept proposal as presented in time for submission to Rushcliffe Borough Council before 01 February 2023.