

Parish Council Precept

The Parish Council receives a precept from the local authority (North Somerset Council) which is taken from the Council Tax paid by all residents. The level of precept is set by the Parish Council Finance Committee. This takes into account the amount required to meet all costs minus any income received from land rent, allotments rent, advertising in Hutton News etc. In previous years, Hutton Parish Council has maintained a very low contingency fund compared to other authorities. This has usually been around £5,000 each year, this compares to some local authorities who maintain in excess of £75,000 for contingencies. This year, we have built in some contingency to deal with issues that will benefit the community Namely, phase 3 replacement of equipment at Elmhurst play area, road safety measures and consultancy and reports on the state of the Scout Hut and the long term plan to improve or replace the building. It was therefore decided to increase the amount required in precept to address these areas of expenditure, additionally increases in overall costs for goods and services supplied and rising energy costs, all of which we have no control over, but are subject to value for money tendering processes. It is also worth noting that, with North Somerset Council facing large budget deficits, services are being reduced and some devolved to Parish Councils. The onus will be on Parish Councils to maintain much of the cleanliness and general maintenance of streets and open spaces. This will increase the number of hours that our paid village orderlies and handypersons have to work.

What does it pay for?

- Maintaining all public open spaces which are the responsibility of the Parish Council.
 - Des Phippen Park
 - Springwood Recreation grounds including adventure play park.
 - Elmhurst Play Area
 - Jubilee Playing fields
 - Village Green
 - Village Pound
 - St Mary's Fields
 - Knightstone Field (on long term tenancy from North Somerset Council)

Costs associated include.

- grass and hedge cutting
 - tree maintenance and removal where necessary
 - Fencing and gates maintenance and replacement
 - Benches and other furniture repair and replacement
 - Play equipment maintenance and replacement.
 - Removal of rubbish, emptying bins and keeping areas clean and safe.
- Buildings which are the responsibility of the Parish Council
 - Hutton Scout Hut
 - Utility costs.
 - General maintenance and safety of building.
 - Consumables.
 - Ongoing repairs to roof, interior and exterior of the building.
 - Springwood Pavilion (on tenancy agreement to Football Club)

- Springwood equipment store
- Parish Council Office (rented from Village Hall Committee)
 - Rent for office use.
 - Office equipment.
 - Normal Printing costs.
 - Hutton News printing costs.
 - Utility costs
 - Telephone and Broadband
 - Stationery.
 - Storage of archive files (statutory requirement) – separate storeroom in VH.
 - Village Hall rented for Council meetings.
- Staff Costs. The Parish Council directly employ the following:
 - Clerk to the Council
 - Day to day administration of the Council
 - Financial and Legal responsibility.
 - Village Orderlies (4)
 - Street Cleaning in Hutton, Woodside and Elborough
 - Bin emptying
 - Reporting faults and problem areas.
 - PPE
 - Village Handyman (2)
 - General routine maintenance of buildings, fences, gates and outdoor furniture and fittings.
 - Weed control in all streets.
 - PPE
 - Churchyard Orderly (1)
 - Maintenance of the closed churchyard.
 - Tree maintenance.
 - Grass cutting.
 - Rubbish removal.
 - General appearance.
 - PPE
- Street Lighting and power supplies.
 - Street lighting in centre of the village.
 - Power supply to external points in St Mary's field (village events)
 - Power supply to Village Green
- Allotments sites at Springwood (Council owned) and Oldmixon Road (on long term tenancy)
 - Water supply to both sites
 - General maintenance to sites outside the remit of tenants.
 - Rent for Oldmixon site.

- Equipment maintenance
 - Annual service costs
 - Maintenance costs
 - Lawn mowers
 - Strimmers
 - Weed spraying equipment.
 - Hedge cutter.

- Community Resilience.
 - Responses to flood risks, snow, ice etc. The Parish Council is responsible for grit and salt bins (filled by NSC) and has stocks of sandbags, cones, signage.
 - Equipment held to respond to emergencies.