



Alderbury Parish Council

BUDGET & PRECEPT 2023-2024

1. Background

Every year, Alderbury Parish Council is required to set a budget for the forthcoming year and determine the amount to be charged to local council taxpayers in the form of a precept. The precept is collected by Wiltshire Council and returned to the Parish Council in two equal payments.

2. 2023/24 Precept

The Council considered proposals on 7th December 2021. Based on these discussions, the proposed budget requirement for Alderbury Parish Council in 2023/24 is **£56,939.86** (up from £51,990.00 in 2021-22). This represents an annual increase for Band D properties of **£2.52**. The increase proposed to the precept reflects several factors:

- A slight increase in the Council Tax Base (the number of properties eligible to pay the charge).
- High levels of inflation and rising energy prices – these costs are reflected in the prices paid for Council goods and services.
- The approved budget requirement for 2023/24 which includes inflation, national pay award and unavoidable costs including pension contributions for the new Clerk.

3. 2023/24 Alderbury Parish Council Tax Base

Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the 2023/24 Council Tax Base for Alderbury is 1,019.26 eligible properties. This is higher than the figure calculated for 2021/22 (991.54), due to the new properties occupied during the year. The proposed 2023/24 precept requirement (£56,939.86) is divided by the new Tax Base (£1,019.26) to provide the Band D Council Tax figure - £55.86.

4. 2023/24 Proposed Budget

The draft budget prepared by the Clerk is attached as **Annex A**.

5. Balances and Use of Reserves

On 1st December 2022, the Council's reserves stood at £75,187. Of this, £48,784 is ring-fenced in earmarked reserves, leaving free reserves of £26,403. It is projected that a further £5-7k will be added to reserves due to budget underspends in year. This will leave free reserves of around £32k as of 1st April 2023, (subject to final budget outturn) which represents a contingency of around 8 months' expenditure – at the middle to upper range of recommended guidelines.

6. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council can expect to receive around £20k of CIL receipts in year from the development in progress at Firs Road.

7. Governance and assurance

The financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March and the proposed budget is prepared in the autumn and set in January, in advance of the new financial year. It must be reviewed and approved by full council. The budget has been prepared in accordance with Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) guidance. Subject to the recommendations set out in this report the levels of balances, reserves and contingencies within the budget are adequate and the council's financial management is JPAG compliant.

The Precept is to be agreed and set at the full Council meeting on 10th January 2023, to ensure the deadline set by Wiltshire Council is met. The deadline for the submission of the precept demand to Wiltshire Council is 18th January 2023.

8. Recommendations

1. That the Council agrees the budget for 2023/2024 attached at Annex A.
2. That the Council sets its precept at £56,939.86 for the 2023/24 financial year.

Liz Holland

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

5th January, 2023