



Alderbury Parish Council

BUDGET & PRECEPT 2022-2023

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 tax payers in the form of a precept. The precept is collected by Wiltshire Council and returned to the Parish Council in two equal payments.

2. 2022/23 Precept

The Council considered proposals on 7th December, 2021. Based on these discussions, the proposed budget requirement for Alderbury Parish Council in 2022/23 is **£52,889.86** (up from £51,990.00 in 2021-22). This represents an annual increase for Band D properties of **£00.46**. 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).
- Lower than expected expenditure in 2021/22 due to the impact of COVID-19 and a corresponding increase in reserves.
- The approved budget requirement for 2022/23 which includes inflation and unavoidable growth including additional costs for grounds maintenance.

3. 2022/23 Alderbury Parish Council Tax Base

Wiltshire Council has confirmed that the 2022/23 Council Tax Base for Alderbury is £991.54 for Band D equivalent properties. This is higher than the figure calculated for 2021/22 (£983.09). This is due to the reduced number of households claiming Council Tax Reduction (CTR) and additional dwellings occupied during the year. The proposed 2022/23 precept requirement is divided by the new Tax Base of £991.54 to provide the Band D Council Tax figure.

4. 2022/23 Proposed Budget

[The draft budget prepared by the Clerk is attached as Annex A.](#)

5. Balances and Use of Reserves

On 1st April 2021, the Council's reserves stood at £92,438. Of this, £60k was allocated to the Village Hall project. In year, it is projected that a further £5-10k will be added to reserves. This leaves free reserves of around £50k, (subject to final budget outturn) which represents a contingency of twelve months expenditure – at the very upper end of recommended guidelines. In view of the healthy state of the Council's reserves, it was agreed at the December meeting that the precept increase should be kept at a minimum level by funding in year projects from reserves. It is recommended that a minimum level of reserves of £30k is retained to protect the Council from financial risk and this leaves around £20k available for any projects that the Council wishes to support during the year – further phases of the Wildlife Project, for example.

6. Governance and assurance

The financial year runs from 01 April to 31 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 5th January 2022, to ensure the deadline set by Wiltshire Council is met. The deadline for the submission of the precept request to Wiltshire Council is 18th January 2022.

Recommendations

1. That the Council agrees [the budget for 2022/2023 attached](#).
2. That the Council sets its precept at £52,889.86 for the 2022/23 financial year.
3. That the Council's [Annual Risk Assessment](#) and [Asset Register 2022/23](#) be approved.

Steve Milton FSLCC ACIS

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
24th December, 2021