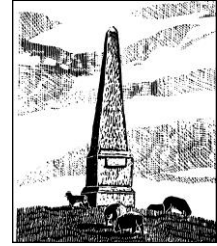


Bilsington Parish Council

Ashford, KENT

www.Bilsingtonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Report Number: BPC/17/07

To: Bilsington Parish Council
Date: 11 January 2018
Status: Public Report

Subject: BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2018/19

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.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The 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 demands.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report BPC/17/07.
2. To determine the Parish Council's budget for 2018/19 from the four options 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 Clerk of the Parish Council to sign the Precept demand on the Borough Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This Report concludes the budget-making process for 2018/19.
2. The Parish Council must now determine its precept level and budget requirements for 2018/19, taking into account
 - a. Expenditure falling due in 2018/19 to carry out its functions
 - b. Appropriate amounts for contingencies
 - c. The need to provide adequate reserves
 - d. Any expenditure incurred in 2017/18 not yet paid

2. **BUDGET 2018/19**

The Budget making process commenced once Ashford Borough Council advised the levels of Council Tax Support Grant, Concurrent Grant and the Tax Base for the forthcoming year.

These have now been compared to those of the 2017/18 financial year, the Concurrent grant remains the same at £280, the Council Tax Support grant is reduced from £190 to £180 a 5.26% reduction and the tax base reduced from 145.62 to 144 a 1.11% reduction.

The Borough Council have announced that their portion of the council tax will rise by 2.28%, £3.50 on a Band D property for 2018/19.

The Parish Council is asked to consider each of the four attached options as its budget for 2018/19. It should be noted that in compiling the budget no allowance has been made for expenditure required as a result of changes introduced by the General Data Protection Regulations legislation and the work required to ensure that the Parish Council remains fully compliant.

It should be noted that the income for the financial year 2017/18 is £20 less than the budgeted expenditure, this came about as a result of the Borough Council reducing the level of Council Tax Support grant after the Parish Council had set its budget for the year.

Option 1: retains the same Band D equivalent as for 2017/18 which as a result of the reduction in tax base and Council Tax Support Grant reduces the precept to £4,183. Staff cost have been increased as a 2% national pay award has been put forward by the National Employers as well as a statutory increase of 1% in employer's pension contributions. Savings have been proposed on other items of expenditure.

Option 2: retains the same level of income as 2017/18 which given the changes made by Ashford Borough Council gives a rise in the Band D equivalent of 1.34%, 39p for the year.

Option 3: proposes an increase in the Band D equivalent of 2.28%, in line with the increase being proposed by Ashford Borough Council of £3.50, the Parish increase being 66p for the year. This is a net increase of 0.94%, 27p for the year.

Option 4: proposes an increase in the Band D equivalent of 5%, £1.45 a net increase of 2.72%, £1.06.

It has been confirmed that referendum principles will not apply to Parish Councils for the next three years

3. **CONCLUSION**

The Parish Council needs to determine its budget and Precept requirements to fund expenditure for 2017/18 and beyond. The Council is, therefore required to agree and confirm its spending plans for the next year.

4. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

If you have any queries about this report please contact The Responsible Finance Officer of the Council

Tel: 07714300986 or email: bilsingtonclerk@gmail.com prior to the meeting.

Background Documents:

Data from Bilsington Parish Council Financial system and budget working papers.

Data from Ashford Borough Council.

		Budget 17/18		Budget 18/19		
Expenditure	Staff costs	3420	3500	3500	3500	3500
	Clerks expenses	150	150	150	150	150
	Insurance	300	300	300	300	300
	Audit	50	50	50	50	50
	Miscellaneous	50				
	Subscriptions	250	260	260	260	260
	Donations	50				
	General	200	133	190	228	342
	Room hire	250	250	250	250	250
	Total	<u>4720</u>	<u>4643</u>	<u>4700</u>	<u>4738</u>	<u>4852</u>
Income	Precept	4230	4183	4240	4278	4392
	Concurrent grant	280	280	280	280	280
	Council tax support grant	190	180	180	180	180
	Total	<u>4700</u>	<u>4643</u>	<u>4700</u>	<u>4738</u>	<u>4852</u>
	tax base	145.62	144	144	144	144
	Band D Equivalent	29.05	29.05	29.44	29.71	30.5
	%change	0	0	1.34	2.28	5