

Exminster Parish Council Approved Budget for the 2021/22 Financial Year

The Parish Council funds its duties and responsibilities by requesting that Teignbridge District Council (TDC) collects a share of Council Tax on its behalf. In autumn, the Parish Council compiles a list of anticipated expenditure for the next Financial Year (beginning 1 April). Each line of expense is given a target figure for expenditure - a "budget". The budget lines are totalled, projected income is deducted and the balance, the precept, is claimed through Council Tax. TDC perform a calculation based on the number of Council Tax band D properties within the Parish to arrive at a base figure for the amount of Council Tax to be collected for the Parish Council from each household. Those in band E, F, G and H properties pay more than the base figure and those in bands A, B and C pay less.

The budget and precept were set by resolution at the Parish Council meeting on 18 January 2021. Minute numbers 21/38 and 21/39 refer. (See extract from minutes below).

Income	
Precept	£ 140,875
Interest	£ 900
Leases, Wayleaves and allotments	£ 300
Total Income	£ 142,075
Expenditure	
Amenities	£ 51,432
Staff Costs	£ 47,000
Sinking Funds	£ 18,000
General Administration	£ 22,350
Community Small Grants	£ 3,000
Total Expenditure	£ 141,782
Balance	£ 293

21/38 To approve the budget for the 21/22 financial year

An options paper incorporating the budget and precept setting had been circulated.

The Budget Working Party (BWP) had considered each budget line. In formulating the budget, the following had been discussed:

- The current financial position and forecast to the year end
- The funds currently held and the impact of an increasing housing base when houses in the South West Exeter development were occupied
- The decrease in the housing base by 3.2% compared with the current financial year

The following questions were raised:

- Was it necessary to continue to ringfence the cemetery funds? It was explained that the funds were ringfenced from when a grant was received from TDC for cemetery maintenance. It was agreed that the BWP would consider this when setting the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

- Should the Community Small grants budget remain at £4K as it had never been fully spent? Following discussion, it was agreed to reduce this line to £3K.

The reduction in the Community Small grants budget line reduced the proposed expenditure budget by £1K to £141,782.

It was resolved to approve the expenditure budget in the sum of £141,782 for the 2021/22 financial year.

21/39 To set the precept for the 21/22 financial year

The BWP had considered the following during discussions on the precept:

- The current economic climate, affordability and moral and political obligations
- Residents' expectations
- The impact on the total Council Tax Bill made up by any increase in the precept

Four options were presented based on the originally proposed expenditure budget of £142,782. The revised and resolved budget figure of £141,782 changed the balancing figure on the options presented and this was taken into account during deliberation:

- No increase on the 2020/21 precept of £85.27 per band D property
- A 0.5% increase on the 2020/21 precept raising it to £85.70 per band D property
- A 1% increase on the 2020/21 precept, raising it to £86.12 per band D property
- A 1.5% increase on the 2020/21 precept, raising it to £86.55 per band D property

Following discussion, it was apparent that there was an appetite for option 1 due to the current economic climate.

It was proposed that there would be no increase to the current precept.

It was resolved to set the precept at £85.27 per band D property, totalling £140,875.

(The total income for the 2021/22 financial year is projected to be £142,075 including other income sources separate to the precept).