

Hatley Parish Council

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Hatley Parish Council Precept 2020-21

The 'precept' is the specific term for the money requested by a Parish Council which is collected from residents as part of the Local Council Tax payment.

Each year during the January meeting of Hatley Parish Council, the budget is discussed and approved for the coming financial year (1st April to the following 31st March) based on expected income and planned expenditure. The Parish Council considers what funds are being held for specific projects and what bank reserves it can draw on, if any, before agreeing the final precept figure.

At the meeting in January 2020 the Parish Council agreed to make **no change to the precept** which was set in January 2019, being £6,900. **However, your Council Tax bill will show an increase of 0.43% for the parish precept, despite the total figure remaining unchanged. This is explained by a decrease in the tax base, i.e. a decrease in the number of tax paying households who contribute via a Council Tax payment.** As a result of the decrease in the tax base, the Band D equivalent charge increases by £0.32 for the financial year 2020-21.

The precept allows the Parish Council to meet its statutory duties and its administrative costs, as well as funding repairs and maintenance of its assets. Additionally, there are a number of ongoing projects in Hatley, including improvements to the Village Hall and Play Area, which will draw upon the precept. The community defibrillator and its cabinet, which were unplanned purchases in 2019 at the request of many residents, will now also be funded by the precept.

A comparisons of parish precepts can be found on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website: www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax/how-your-council-tax-is-calculated. When making a comparison it is important to consider how each parish differs from another in terms of population size, potential sources of income and variations in local expenditure requirements, as no two councils are the same!

Hatley Parish Council has just once source of income, other than the precept, being hire fees from the Village Hall. As such the bulk of expenditure must be met by the precept, which is drawn from a small tax base.

Other Parishes may benefit from a wide range of income sources which allow Parish Councils to transact their business and to undertake improvements or repairs without increasing the parish precept. Examples of other sources of income may include fees from allotments or burial grounds, grants received from solar farms within a parish and/or the funds received from the Community Infrastructure Levy as a result of new housing developments within a parish.

A comparison of expenditure should also be made with care. Some fixed costs may have the same financial burden for a wide range of Parish Councils, regardless of significant variations in the size of the tax base. Some Parish Councils will be financing a range of new projects or improvements, whilst others will have limited assets to improve, or may be able to fund purchase and improvements from other income sources or grants that are not available to all parishes.

Hatley Parish Council's finances are fully transparent, are annually audited and are publicly available here on the village website. As mentioned above, the budget and precept are discussed and agreed at the January meeting each year which you are welcome to attend. Otherwise, if you have any questions about Hatley's Parish Precept, you are welcome to contact the Parish Clerk for further information.