

## Parish Council Precept Increase 2022/23

For the first time since the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 Stanton by Dale Parish Council has found it necessary to increase the precept for the next financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The increase is reflected in the Council Tax demands which have now been issued by Erewash Borough Council as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

The precept increase will increase the income for the parish council from £7385.00 to £27936.50. The implication for Stanton by Dale residents is illustrated by the standard reference to a band D equivalent property, where the increased cost in the **annual** Council Tax Bill will be £103.86 or £1.99 per week, broken down further to £0.29 pence per day.

The following factors have contributed to the need for the increase:

- Grant Funding from various sources has been phased out, meaning there are less funds available to support core functions
- During the period from 2016 where the precept has remained unchanged, the costs of the core services provided by the Parish Council have continued to rise
- In the same period the Council has been drawing on reserves to enable it to support the cost of core services and undertake projects over and above the core costs
- At the end of the financial year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the general reserves are depleted to a level which is regarded to be below the minimum to provide an adequate contingency to cover its annual administration costs. The council has a legal obligation to hold an adequate general reserve of 3-12 months on-costs.

As a reminder, the Parish Council provides and maintains the following services/facilities for the benefit of residents:

- The Village Hall. Though this is a paid for service through hire charges, the Village Hall is currently running at a huge loss due to Covid19 restrictions, the loss of regular hirers, increased energy costs for heating and lighting. The Village Hall is also in dire need of some repairs and maintenance - this is funded directly by the Parish Council in the absence of available grants. The alternative to this would be for the Parish Council to consider the sale of the Village Hall which is our only community asset; and would be a great loss to the village.
- Recreation area and play equipment
- Street Cleaning
- Bin emptying
- Village grass cutting
- Weed spraying
- Road Safety
- Village Signage
- Replacement street furniture

- Key projects within the community
- Christmas Lights
- Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- Annual Floral displays
- Footpaths
- Our village faces a once in a lifetime threat, with the redevelopment of the former Stanton and Staveley works and proposed house building in the land around our village - this will require additional meetings and consultation with residents to ensure everyone is fully informed and aware of how they can make their own comments and/or objections.

The Parish Council went through a robust budget setting process in November 2021 ahead of the forthcoming financial year and all of the above was noted as part of the decision to increase the precept. Whilst we understand that this will be a cause of frustration to some residents, we do ask for your continued support as we strive to improve every aspect of our village.

Following the increase of the precept, the Parish Council will now look towards implementing projects to engage all residents over the forthcoming years with the view to maintaining the village ethos and identity that you are all familiar with.

The Parish Council will now continue to manage their budget carefully and ensure that all services received and provided are as cost effective and efficient as possible.