

Kilmersdon Parish Precept 2018/19

Kilmersdon Parish Council is not increasing its precept for 2018/19. The precept will remain the same as last year at £12,630.

Unusually, the tax base in Kilmersdon has gone down slightly from 229.12 to 224.13. Mendip DC has confirmed that this is because the tax base is calculated by working out the number of band D equivalent dwellings and then account for any properties where the full charge is not being paid eg empty properties, single occupancy, council tax support. Within the Parish, there has been an increase of five properties from last year to this but there has also been an increase of eight single occupancy households and one more where a disregard discount of 25% is being applied. The result is a drop in the number of households where the full council tax is being paid. This will account for the small decrease in the tax base and hence the small increase in the amount paid by an 'average' Band D household.

How and why are we freezing the precept this year?

Kilmersdon Parish Council faces the same inflationary increases in the cost of products and services as all organisations. However, with careful budgeting we are making savings in areas of postage and audit. We are slightly increasing our budget for grass cutting and annual/quarterly play equipment checks. We are freezing our budgeted amounts for grants.

Exactly what services does the Parish Council offer?

- The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on **planning applications** and provides a local voice on **highways** and **environmental matters**.
- The Parish Council manages the **play area** adjacent to the Village Hall.
- It supports the **parish environment** by paying for the street lighting at the Village Hall, grass cutting of the playing field and Jack and Jill hill, where it also funds the cutting back of the footpath and hedge trimming..
- The Parish Council supports **local organisations** through grant funding.
- It maintains some of the **benches** in the parish..

How did the Parish Council perform in the last year?

In 2017/18 the Parish Council worked closely to its budget, exceeding it by an estimated £549. A change of Clerk during the year and funding the Clerks' handover period accounted for some of this overspend, together with higher grass cutting costs and more frequent professional checks of the play equipment.

The Parish Council was delighted to support a number of local organisations through grant provision this year, amongst them the Parish Church and the Parish magazine. Provision was also made towards the repair of the bench on Jack and Jill hill.

The award of a grant from the Government's Transparency Fund allowed the Parish Council to purchase a laptop, software and a printer/scanner, at no cost to the people of Kilmersdon.

What is new for the next financial year?

As the play equipment adjacent to the Village Hall approaches the end of its predicted lifespan, the Parish Council expects to spend some of its earmarked reserves in the years ahead on replacement play equipment. Provision has also been made for extra grass cutting.

Signage for parking at the Village Hall is being looked into, as is the signage on entering the village.

The Parish Council is working to represent the people of Kilmersdon and make decisions in the best interests of the village. We welcome your views and input.

Kilmersdon Parish Council
clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk