

CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Report on Budget & Precept January 2013

Consideration of the Budget & Precept for 2013-2014 has been complicated by various Government measures which may impact on the precept set, and the amounts of Tax payable by individual householders.

A summary of recent expenditure and the likely outcome for 2012-2013, together with a draft budget for 2013-2014 follows, and is based on retaining the current precept level of £2,500. This is likely to fall short of actual expenditure in the year and result in a reduction in year-end balances (but not to a significant level). However, because of a change in the Tax Base, linked to changes in Council Tax Benefit arrangements, a standstill precept will actually result in a small percentage increase in the Council Tax payable by individual householders. Cheshire East Council has provided additional grant funding to offset this change – in the (provisional) sum of £186. If the precept is therefore set at £2,314 it should result in an unchanged Council Tax figure for individual householders.

SUMMARY	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	likely 2012-13	draft 2013-14
Clerk's salary & expenses	1123.75	1108.36	1278.36	1300.00	1300.00
Audit	80.50	112.25	90.00	120.00	120.00
Insurance	134.00	140.00	170.10	144.59	160.00
Hall hire	90.00	150.00	254.36	275.00	250.00
Support to local organisations/ projects	1807.36	967.45	770.00	880.80 #	1000.00
Charitable donations	200.00	nil	170.00	nil	200.00
Other expenditure	103.95	111.00	158.00	350.00	300.00

in addition a Cheshire Community Action grant of £3,000 was passed to the Village Vision Group via the Parish Council

TOTAL	3539.56	2589.06	2890.82	3070.39	3330.00
Precept	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00*
Year-end balance	7062.00	7517.62	7129.86	6559.47	5730.00

*To be reduced to £2,314 to reflect Cheshire East's grant support

The level of year-end balances has been queried in the past by District Audit, who generally regard balances above a year's precept/ expenditure as excessive. There has been no specific concern raised recently, but members will wish to consider the level of balances in setting this year's precept.

Members are invited to consider an appropriate precept.

NOTE

There is a separate account for Parish Compact expenditure which does not impact on the setting of the general budget, or precept.

Gwyn Griffiths
Clerk January 2013