

Broadway Parish Council

Precept rise announcement

February 2024

Dear parishioner

You are no doubt aware that Somerset Council like a number of other Councils across the Country has had to declare a financial emergency. Soaring adult social care costs and increasing demands on services means they have to look at ways to save money and balance next year's budget. One cost saving is to devolve services previously carried out by Somerset Council to parish councils such as ours.

Like every other local council across the county, we're preparing for the unknown. We need to ensure we'll have the money available to pay for the extra responsibilities that will pass to us from Somerset Council later this year. We have minimal reserves to draw on so, we have taken the difficult decision to increase our part of your council tax bill (what's known as the precept) from April onwards.

The actual price increase of the Broadway Parish precept will depend on the council tax band of your property. But, as an example, someone living in a Band D property will pay £1.10 more towards the work of the Parish Council per week. For the majority of properties, it will cost even less. Only a very small proportion of your council tax funds the work of the Parish Council; the rest of your money goes to funding Somerset Council, the police, fire brigade and other agencies.

We are confident that our village will see improvements in the areas previously maintained by Somerset Council. We will have more influence over frequency and quality control of tasks such as litter and dog bin collections, grass and verge cutting and drain clearance. The latter has not taken place for over four years and our winter flooding is testament to this.

The precept will be carefully reviewed towards the end of this year when the actual cost of devolution is known.