

# West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

21 January 2021

## Agenda Item 10: Precept for 2021/22

### Report of the Parish Clerk

To comply with the deadline of 22 January 2021 set by Durham County Council (the Council Tax administering Authority), the Parish Council is required to agree, set and request the precept for the financial year 2021-22.

#### Tax Base 2021/22

The County Council has updated its tax base modelling taking into account the updated position in terms of new build and incidence of other discounts and exemptions impacting on the tax base calculation.

The table below shows the position for West Rainton Parish Council

Current Tax Base (2020/21) (A)	691.80
Tax Base for 2021/22 (B)	683.20
Tax Base Decrease from 2020/21 (C) = (B-A)	8.6
Current Band D Council Tax (2020/21) (D)	£51.80
Decrease in Council Tax Yield (E) (C X D)	(£445.48)
Removal of the 2020/21 LRTRS Grant (F)	(£2759)
LCTRS Grant Applicable in 2021/22 (G)	£3123
*Net Position (E) – (F) + (G)	(£81.49)

\*This is the amount the Parish Council could increase its precept by to give a standstill position in terms of resource availability.

To assist Parish Council consider the setting of the 2021/22 precept please refer to the attached Appendix.

This summarises:

- Actual expenditure and income in 2019/20
- Forecast expenditure and income for 2020/21
- Draft budget for 2021/22 based on a standstill position i.e. no change to precept.

#### Draft Budget 2021/22

In drawing up the proposed budget for 2021/22, careful consideration has been given to anticipated spending based upon experience gained over the last 2 years. Your attention is drawn to key provisions in the draft budget:

- Forecast brought forward general reserves balance of **£21,020** from 2020/21

- Maintenance of the earmarked reserve for cemetery improvements of £9,833
- Application of £4,000 earmarked election reserve for May 2022 election.
- The potential to support Durham Area Youth's if we receive a funding request for £5,000 2021/22
- Reduction in staffing budget to £7,000 reflecting the termination of the post of project officer, but with some contingency provision above that of the Parish Clerk standard hours for any unforeseen staff resource requirements and /or specialist skills to be procured
- The grant applications from community groups totalling **£564** rolled over from 2020/21 (To be considered under a separate agenda item at this meeting)
- An increase for inflation where considered necessary
- Amalgamation of all General Maintenance Budgets with £10,000 provision to cover all agreed commitments for cemetery maintenance, Heritage Garden maintenance, village planters maintenance, ad hoc grave top and turfing and other ad hoc maintenance requirements eg. cemetery and village greens.

### **Potential funding pressures not reflected in the draft budget**

The following potential funding pressures have **not** been reflected in this draft budget:

- Further funding support to secure the financial sustainability of Jubilee Hall
- Proposal to install metal fencing and hedging to replace boulders on the Old Sunderland Road
- Proposal to install memorial wall in the cemetery
- Proposal to develop and improve the website
- Proposal to develop Neighbourhood Plan
- Potential for other community support needed during Covid Pandemic

In light of the above possible funding pressures, to aid with budget management and transparency, Parish Council are asked to consider whether an earmarked reserve be created for potential projects moving forward.

This would be known as the Village Improvement Plan and created from a part of the general reserve balance at the end of each year.

Any improvement project approved to be funded, or part funded, from this reserve could then be allocated a separate budget heading when a firm budget estimate for the project was known.

### **Conclusion**

The draft budget forecasts surplus of **£8759**. This will increase the general reserve forecast balance at 31 March 2022 to **£29,809**. Consequently, no increase in precept is considered necessary.

Parish Council is asked to consider this report and Appendix in order to agree the precept requirement for 2021/22 and agree a draft provisional budget for 2021/22.

**M Ramshaw**  
**15/01/2021**