



Consultation on Draft Parish Budget 2022/23

Our plans and proposals

Summary

Each year the parish council sets a precept. This is the amount that the parish council adds to the council tax paid by households in the parish, and is the main source of funds for everything the parish council does during the year.

Although the population of the parish is growing and the council will be facing increases in costs due to inflation, the council proposes that the precept should remain at £45,000 for the year starting on 1 April 2022. This means that the parish council part of your council tax bill should not be any higher than in the current year.

The council can do this because it has built up savings over the last few years. It is very likely that the precept will need to go up in future years to keep services as they are.

The council will make a final decision about the precept at its meeting on 11 January. **If there is anything you would like the council to consider at that meeting about how much money it should spend, or what it should spend that money on, please get in touch by the 31st of December.** You can contact the council by email at clerk@cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk, on 07591 299749, or come along to Cradley Village Hall on Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm and give your comments in person.

What is the parish council planning to spend money on?

This is a summary of the main items. You can see a more detailed version, including a comparison with the current year and projections for three years, at <https://cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Budget-calculation-detail.pdf>

Item	£	Why do we spend this?
Parish Clerk	10,054	The clerk does all the administration for the parish, works with contractors and Herefordshire Council and is the first point of contact for people who want to talk with the parish council
Grants and Donations	7,500	The council makes contributions to local groups. In past years this has included the two village halls, the St James' Cradley Churchyard and other groups
Insurance	1,200	The council must have insurance by law

Elections	2,000	We need to set aside some money for future elections – these are likely to come in 2023, just after the end of the year
Training	2,775	It is a requirement that the clerk and councillors stay up to date with changes in the law
Other administration	3,300	Includes rental of halls for parish council meetings and other smaller items
Lengthsman	8,505	The lengthsman carries out repairs on footpaths, verges and helps look after the council recreation areas
Grass Cutting	4,250	Cutting the grass at Chapel Lane, Buryfields and Crumpton Hill, and in the community orchard
Other maintenance	2,625	Keeping the play equipment and other parts of the recreation areas in working order
Road Safety	6,000	The council would like to take measures to improve road safety, particularly speeding, in the parish
Enhancements	5,000	The council would like to make the public areas in the village better
Contingency	4,500	In case the council faces unexpected expenses, or other costs turn out higher than expected
VAT	4,963	The council has to pay VAT on most things it buys – but it can claim it back in the next year
TOTAL	62,672	

This will be paid for as follows:

	£	
Precept	45,000	Paid from council tax
VAT reclaimed	4,510	VAT paid in the previous year and claimed back
Reduction in reserves	13,162	Paid out of the council's savings
TOTAL	62,672	

We expect that the council will have about £52,932 of reserves (savings) on 1 April 2022. These plans mean that the council will have £39,770 of reserves at the year end on 31 March 2023. The council normally aims to reserves equal to between 6 and 12 months expenditure.