

**Malmesbury Town Council**  
**Policy and Resource Committee meeting 4.12.19**  
**Report No.5a**

**Annual Budget and precept 2020/21**

- i. The Council are asked to consider the annual budget for the year 2020-21, considering the existing and possible new budget allocations needed.<sup>i</sup>
- ii. On the 4<sup>th</sup> December the Policy and Resources Committee considered and agreed a proposed Council budget for 2020/21, as outlined in Report 1b.
- iii. When considering the budget, the Policy and Resources Committee allowed for;
  - Inflation at 2.5 % as an on cost to existing Council goods and services.
  - Local Government Pay increases, to be agreed, but assumed to be up to 3% (maximum).
  - Staff incremental rises.<sup>ii</sup>
- iv. In addition to maintaining existing services, the Policy and Resources Committee considered new or aspirational projects or areas of service delivery, notably but not definitively;
  - Works to St Aldhelms Mead Bridge.<sup>iii</sup>
  - The maintenance of Cross Hayes Toilets.<sup>iv</sup>
  - The possible installation of a buffer arrangement to protect the Market Cross.<sup>v</sup>
  - A need to ensure staff training in relation to health and safety.<sup>vi</sup>
  - The installation of new signs at all Council Parks and Open Spaces.<sup>vii</sup>
  - A possible annual cost of £150 as a contribution towards the defibrillator service.<sup>viii</sup>
  - Reviewed waste management services; the existing contractual arrangements are not sufficient to meet the need and do not incorporate any form of recycling practices.<sup>ix</sup>
  - Upgrade of ICT infrastructure and software, and Wifi service.<sup>x</sup>
  - The impact of the possibility of devolution from Wiltshire Council, and the impact of any preparatory work that this may require. E.g. professional fees, research etc.<sup>xi</sup>
  - Partnership working; notably a specific request from the Town Team for £8000.<sup>xii</sup>
- v. The Council has a CIL fund of £43050 which needs to be utilised this financial year, and could be used to alleviate any anticipated pressure on the 2020/21 budget assuming it can be used appropriately.
- vi. The Council's precept increase for 19/20 was agreed at 3% on a Band D equivalent which equated to £205.49 per household. The total income received from the 2019/20 Precept raised £451,264
- vii. This decision was based on an anticipated expenditure of £531,919.00, and income of £80,075. The remaining balance to be met via reserves.
- viii. The tax base for 20/21 is 2172.47, which is 1.09% lower than last year.

- ix. Based on this year's tax base the following increases would be;
- 2% rise would equate to a precept of £455349, equating to £209.60 per household, with an increase of £4.11.
  
  - 2.5% rise would equate to a precept of £457587, equating to £210.63 per household with an increase of £5.14.
  
  - 3% rise would equate to a precept of £459803, equating to £211.65 per household with an increase of £6.16.
- x. The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council a precept rise of 2.5% resulting in £210.63 for a Band D property, with an expenditure of £553,468 (as outlined in Report No 1b).
- xi. The Councils is asked to consider and agree the budget and precept for 20/21.

Richard Spencer- Williams – Town Clerk 9.12.19

## Legal Power

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<sup>i</sup> Local Government Finance Act 1992 s41

<sup>ii</sup> Local Government Act 1972 s112

<sup>iii</sup> Public Health Act 1875 s164. Highways Act 1980 ss145, 50

<sup>iv</sup> Public Health Act 1936 s87

<sup>v</sup> Local Government Act 1972 s133

<sup>vi</sup> Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

<sup>vii</sup> Public Health Act 1875 s164

<sup>viii</sup> Public Health Act 1936 s234

<sup>ix</sup> Litter Act 1983 ss5-6

<sup>x</sup> Local Government Act 1972 s111

<sup>xi</sup> Localism Act 2011 ss 81-86/87-108

<sup>xii</sup> LGA 1972 s144