

Precept 2023/24

Council tax bills are now starting to arrive through letterboxes, usually accompanied by explanatory leaflets from West Sussex and Horsham Councils plus the Police & Crime Commissioner. Unfortunately, Parish Councils are not offered this opportunity and so we have added some information below to explain why the amount you pay to Broadbridge Heath Parish Council is increasing for 2023/24.

Parish Councillors gave much consideration to precept setting, factoring the rising costs and uncertainty of the current economic climate.

Service provision by the Parish Council is on a very local level. This includes, but is not limited to, the maintenance and management of open spaces, including play areas; litter management, Streetscene and bus shelters. These services are on a different scale to County Highways, Education or Emergency Services, but are important in keeping our village well maintained and an enjoyable place to live.

Parish Councils are solely funded by the resident's parish proportion of the council tax, known as the precept. Parish Councils receive no funding from central government. Whilst District and County Councils may receive additional central government funding enabling them to keep increases to council tax to a minimum, Parish Councils are only able to meet increasing costs by increasing the precept or using any accumulated general reserves.

When setting the precept, the Parish Council's Finance and Establishment Committee scrutinised every budget line to ensure that appropriate decisions were taken to ensure continuity of service, whilst ensuring the increasing costs of energy, materials and services can be met.

The Parish Council agreed the below deficit balance (budget v precept request), agreeing to use some of the council's general reserves for this next financial year, rather than pass on the entire increase in costs to residents.

In terms of facts and figures for 2023-24 the Council has approved:

- A total budget of £183,730
- A total precept of £137,928

For an average Band D property this equates to a council tax contribution to the parish council of:

- £59.07 per year or £1.14 per week
- a rise of £4.38 per annum or 8%
- 8 pence extra per week.

The average Band D annual parish precept in England was £74.81 for the 2022/23 financial year.

To find out more about the Parish Council's services, please visit:

[Local Government Responsibilities and Reporting - Broadbridge Heath Parish Council \(broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk\)](https://broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk)

Parish Council meetings are open to the public, for more information please visit [Committees and Meetings - Broadbridge Heath Parish Council \(broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk\)](https://broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk)

Parish Council elections are due to be held in May 2023.