

Background Information for 2017/2018 Holbrook Parish Precept

We are, as part of local government, empowered to raise money through taxation via the precept (Holbrook's share of the Council Tax) and have a wide range of powers.

The Parish Council sets the Precept for the upcoming financial year by working out what the expected spends for the year are to be, against the balance in the bank account.

A Parish Council should only set the Precept for the year to cover the costs of the upcoming year. In recent years, Holbrook Parish Council has spent the Precept on the following:

Provision of a Parish Warden, Maintenance of Parish facilities, Parish Clerk, Annual contribution to the long term project for building work, Gorsey Piece maintenance, Grit provisions for the winter, and Mellors Lane Park.

A Parish Council can save money for a long term project and this has to be placed away from the current account so the External Auditor can see what this money is for. A Parish Council is audited internally and externally each year. In the audit documents all money has to be accounted for and it is not deemed good practice for money to be held except for a small contingency for emergency situations or a long term project. This has to be listed on the Audit return.

As we work on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council is looking at other areas of the Parish which may require attention. As there is not a big pot of money it is important we focus on what is needed. For example we looked at bus shelters recently and asked the Parish to comment if they felt this was an appropriate spend. The feedback from the Parish was that this was not a priority and it was agreed to look at this in the future.

Some areas we can look at include:

- Provision of additional litter bins
- Planters for seasonal flowers around the Parish
- Improvement to Gorsey Piece and Mellors Lane
- Renovation and replacement to village seats
- Traffic Calming
- General Spending- the Parish Council can spend a limited amount of money on anything it deems benefits the community.

There are some areas which the Parish Council is not responsible for:

- Derbyshire County Council deal with potholes, damage to roads and footpaths, blocked drains, street lighting.
- Amber Valley Borough Council deal with Refuse and Waste, Elections, Licensing, Street Care and Cleaning.

Taking into account the information above, we would welcome any suggestions of the areas in the Parish that you feel should be considered. If you wish to contact the Clerk with suggestions please email clerk@holbrookderbyshire.co.uk or write to Holbrook PC, Sunnyside Cottage, Gill Lane, Darley Dale DE4 2HH.