

Finance

Perhaps we should start by saying that parish councillors are unpaid, including the Chairman.

Most of the parish council's income comes from the 'precept', which is the parish's share of the council tax paid by Rothley residents. This currently works out at a little over £50 per year for a Band D house. Charnwood Borough Council calculates this figure by dividing the total precept by the 'taxbase', which is essentially an estimate of the number of households expected to pay council tax in the year in question.

The parish council is required to set a budget each year and the precept is calculated from the budget. For next year we set a budget to cover the additional costs arising from the increasing number of houses in the parish - over 800 new houses have been built in the last few years or are currently being built and this increases the demand for the services we provide. For every new house being added to the taxbase the precept increases by about £50 per year without any increase in the tax for each household. Our intention was to set the budget and therefore the precept at a level which would lead to an increase of about 2% for each household. At the time we were required to do this CBC was unable to provide us with a figure for the taxbase for next year and we were obliged to make our own estimate. Unfortunately CBC's estimate was lower than ours (we think too low) leading to an apparent increase in the precept of over 5% for each household. Although this sounds high it is actually only about 5p per week for each household. As long as there are no major unexpected additional costs in the next 12 months we would expect the increase to be much lower or possibly even zero next year.

Our total budget for 2017/18 is approximately £140,000 distributed under the following main headings:

Wages (caretaker/cleaners, Clerk, admin)	30%
Open spaces (mowing, maintenance, repairs)	26%
Village Hall	11%
Rothley Centre (grant from RPC)	9%
Operating costs (insurance, rent, training etc.)	7%
Cemetery	5%
Administration (equipment, phones, IT etc.)	3%
Street lights (the few owned by RPC)	2%
Other	7%