

## Precept

With Council Tax bills being delivered, we just wanted to update Parishioners on the Parish Council Precept element of the bill which allows Briercliffe Parish Council to undertake maintenance and projects throughout Briercliffe.

What a difficult year 2020 was and, when restrictions allowed, we re-introduced work into the Parish that hopefully lifted the spirits of those of us who were forced to stay at home and exercise locally. Our Woodland Walk planned work was completed, grass cutting, allotment maintenance and upkeep around the village was undertaken...as well as further Christmas Decorations which illuminated those dark winter nights.

There is an assumption that the Parish Council is awash with money and nothing could be further from the truth. Our independently audited accounts are always available for any Parishioner to look through and see where the money has been spent. Parish Councillors do not get paid for the voluntary efforts they undertake on behalf of everyone in Briercliffe.

The Precept (which was an Agenda item at the January 2021 virtual Parish Council meeting), was considered and approved by the 7 Councillors present, and is the Parish Council's element of your Council Tax Bill. In order to continue with seasonal on-going Parish maintenance, as well as the work you have told us you want doing, we agreed to increase the precept from £22,500 to £25,000.

In 2021 some of the extra agreed-on focus projects (on top of existing yearly maintenance jobs throughout the Parish) will be to: maintain the Woodland Walk and implement our plans on how we will manage the trees within it; clear asbestos from some allotments, as well as create new allotments to deal with a surge in popularity by Parish residents.

We know that not everyone will be happy with an increase in the precept and we know there will be chatter about % increases, these are not helpful and usually used by people with a political agenda or motive, as scare tactics. Since 2018 the precept has only increased by £2.74 in all that time. This year's increase equates to an extra £1.34 a year if you live in a Band A property, which is less than 3 pence a week. When you think what £1.34 can actually buy, it's a very small amount that we make go a long way. All of this money is spent on cyclical maintenance and identified projects benefiting all of us who live in Briercliffe.