

NORTH CADBURY & YARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES ON PRECEPT 2021/2022

1. Clerk's Salary

Pay scales are based on the local government pay scales negotiated by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. 'Subject to satisfactory performance, you will progress automatically through the salary scale by annual increments until you reach the maximum of the scale.' My current pay scale is 21 and my maximum pay scale is 23. The current contracted Clerk's hours are 25 hours a month, however, for the last two years I have worked in excess of these hours and propose that the PC considers increasing the hours to 26 hours a month.

2. Clerk's Expenses

The mileage rate has been budgeted at **45p per mile** in line with SLCC and NALC Car Allowance for Local Council Clerks. Travel is minimal at the moment due to Covid-19, therefore, I have reduced my annual mileage to £50. Also included is £10 a month 'Working from Home' tax allowance.

3. Other Parochial Activities

Due to the transfer of funds from some of the PC reserves to help cover legal expenses, the following reserves should be replaced as follows, however, these can be adjusted if necessary:

Noticeboard repairs/de-icing material -£300 (current balance £0.00)

Rights of Way repairs - £700 (current balance £2,100 from grants received)

Fingerposts/signage - £500 (current balance £400)

I have included £100 for hire of halls just in case Coronavirus restrictions are eased later in the year once we are all vaccinated.

£250 has been included in the budget for the servicing of the church clock; historically the PC has also paid one third of any repair work.

Last year fees were not required for external audit as the PC agreed to be an exempt authority as its income and expenditure are below £25,000, however, this year with the Neighbourhood Plan and Legal Fee expenditure, it is likely the PC will be required to be have an external audit carried out, therefore, I have included £240 to cover this.

I have reduced councillor training from £300 to £200 and included £200 for website maintenance and hosting.

Although the Neighbourhood Plan originally anticipated that the NP will be cost neutral to the PC, I have carried forward the float of £1500 from this FY and included £1,000 in FY 21/22 as advised by the NP WG in the event funds will be required.

The level of contingency has been maintained at £1,500.

4. Churchyard grants

The system for paying churchyard grants was reviewed in 2018 when the PC agreed to increase the grants to £1,200, from £1,000 for N Cadbury PCC and to £500 from £350 for Yarlington PCC, fixed for three years and was due for review in January 2021, however, I propose this is deferred until January 2022.

5. Hall grants and Village Halls Refurbishment (VHR) Reserve

The routine maintenance grants were increased in 2018 to £150, £100 and £50 for North Cadbury, Galhampton and Yarlinton respectively. I proposed a review should be carried out in January 2022.

6. Playing Field grants

Both treasurers have submitted their estimate/expenditure for grass cutting and playing field maintenance which is included.

7. Charitable donations

I have maintained the charitable donations as follows: £250 for locally orientated charities/organisations, £150 for South Somerset CAB and £250 for St Margaret's Hospice. The PC also agreed funding of £200 for the SSCAT Bus and £100 for Castle Cary Library.

8. Precept and General Reserve

The estimated General Reserve at 31/03/21 is £2,182.12, which is slightly below the minimum recommended reserve of 25% of annual expenditure i.e., c£2,200.

The PC has gradually increased its precept in stages of £500 since FY 2017/18. In order to maintain a float for the NP (£2,500) and, due to the increased expenditure in the current FY to cover legal fees (£3,000 plus VAT), which will need to be replenished in FY 21/22, I propose that the PC increases the precept by £2,500 for FY 21/22, which equates to an increase of approx. £4.26 per household per annum, the equivalent of 16.41%.

There are hopefully ample provisions in the 2021/22 budget (including a £1,500 contingency and an adequate General Reserve). It is considered unlikely that the Council will be under real financial pressure during this period.

RCarter

Becky Carter
Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
18th January 2021