Meriden
PARISH COUNCIL
the historic centre of England

14th March 2023

Dear Resident,

We are aware that many of you will have begun to receive your Council Tax Bill for the next year (April 2023-March 2024) which will highlight the precept charge we are responsible for on it. Because of this we wanted to take the time to set out the process we undertook to determine the level we would set it at, the context in which we made the decision and what it means for you.

Process

The Finance Committee met with input from other Councillors to review the budget for next year line by line to assess where savings could be made or more expenditure was needed to fulfil the commitments, we have made to you via our Business Plan. Having reviewed 88 budget lines including reviewing how we could use the reserves which we have, we reached the amount of money the Council would need for the next Financial Year which was a small increase compared to these years (April 2022-March 2024). As such we reviewed three options to increase the precept, 3%, 6% and 10%. By reviewing the gap in income versus our planned expenditure we determined that the deficit would be covered by a 3% increase.

Context

As a Parish Council we are always mindful of the wider world context when it comes to our budget setting process. The last 2 years have been unpredictable with Covid-19 and lockdowns but through strong financial prudence the Council's financial position remained strong. Turning to the end of 2022 we were aware of the significant impact of rising energy bills and interest rates were having on all of us and as such sought to minimise any increase in the precept whilst maintaining our service levels. Like you we remain vulnerable to rising costs and the unpredictability of markets. We were also aware of plans by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to increase their Council Tax and Adult Social Care Levy along with other agencies planning an increase such as the WM Police & Crime Commissioner and WM Fire and Rescue Authority and so did all we could to keep any increase from the Parish Council as low as possible. Whilst the state of the National and Local economy remains delicate, we will keep the budget under review throughout this year and into future financial years to ensure minimal impact to you the precept payers.

What does it mean for you?

Band D Charge (What You Pay)	**Total Precept (What we have to spend)**
Band D charge of £50.11	£63,339
Increase from last year of £1.46 (or (0.028p p/week)	*Increase from last year of £2,133*

This is clearly not something that we take any pleasure in passing onto Meriden residents, in what continues to be difficult and unprecedented financial circumstances for many of us to navigate.

With this planned increase we can ensure that we can deliver on the plans we have made for Meriden and ensure that the Parish Council can respond to any further incidents that may come over the next 12 months.

Should you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact the team who will be happy to provide more detail.

We Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to serve our local community.

Yours sincerely

Rosie Weaver

Councillor Rosie Weaver BEM
Chair Meriden Parish Council

Clerk: Barbara Bland, 55 James Dawson Drive, Millison's Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 **M:** 07767 162423 **E:** clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk