

# HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Precept 2017/18

The parish councillors considered it necessary to increase the precept for 2017/2018 for the following reasons:

1. Cambridge County Council has been cutting back on services, such as cutting verges, footpaths and green areas, and this is now having to be financed by the parish council. (For the last two years CCC was able to increase their precept by 1.99% but refused to do so, preferring to reduce the level of services to cut costs, but Haslingfield residents still expect the same level of services and the Parish Council has had to step in to fill this gap.
2. Residents have made it clear that they want the Parish Council to introduce traffic calming measures in the village, and this has to be paid for by the Parish Council – not the County Council. Additionally, the Council has to budget for ongoing maintenance of the traffic calming furniture.
3. Residents have made it clear that they would like to see improvements to the Village Hall, and plans for an extension were displayed at a special meeting last year. The Parish Council has to pay for this.

Unfortunately, the charge for each household was further increased by the fact that from 1st April 2017 89 Trumpington Meadows households move out of Haslingfield parish to a new Trumpington Meadows parish, so the charge has had to be apportioned to fewer households – 701 instead of 790 as previously. So even if we had not increased our precept this year for the reasons outlined above, each household in Haslingfield would still have received an increase of 13% just to stand still to replace the £9,000 a year which Trumpington Meadows had been contributing to us previously. Of course, as the village continues to grow and new houses are built the charge per household may fall.

The precept for 2017/2018 was discussed at the December Parish Council meeting. It was on the Agenda which was displayed on the Parish notice boards and on the Parish website at least 5 days before the meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend all Council meetings to witness proceedings and have an opportunity to put forward their points of view. The Precept that is agreed at the meeting is shown on the minutes of the meeting which is also displayed on Parish notice boards and on the Parish website.

Jenny Jullien  
Chairman, Haslingfield Parish Council  
April 2017