

What is the precept?

The Parish Council raises a local tax (the precept) which is collected via the Council Tax and paid to us by Milton Keynes Council. The precept is paid by every household and varies in accordance to your property band in the same way as the Council Tax. The precept is spent within the Parish as laid out in the budget approved by Parish Councillors, who are local unpaid residents who have either been elected or co-opted to the council if a vacancy has arisen during the 4 year election cycle. The next election for Shenley Church End Parish Council will be in May 2020.

Milton Keynes Council is funded by Council Tax payments and also by grants from the government. The amount of these grants has been reducing for some years following cuts and as a consequence of this, Milton Keynes Council has been forced to make substantial cost savings. This has been happening over the last few years through cost saving initiatives, but in order to continue to meet the reductions necessary, they must now consider reducing services, and will continue to do this for the years to come.

This years budget proposals from Milton Keynes Council include a number of cuts to help reduce expenditure in areas that will impact the environment you live and work in. There is likely to be reductions in litter picking and emptying of bins in public areas, a reduction in the number of grass cuts, weed spraying and reduced landscape maintenance. Equipment within play areas may be removed and not repaired or replaced, the teams responding to calls about fly tipping and glass in public areas will be reduced and there is a proposal for grit bins to no longer be filled. Parish and Town Councils have been approached to 'take up the slack' or to take over some services completely.

The Parish Council have not agreed at this point to take over any services, but are mindful that there may be some additional costs incurred throughout the year to minimise the impact of Milton Keynes Councils cuts. The Parish Council has always run on a very tight budget with unpaid Councillors contributing time and effort to benefit the local community. However in order to cover the extra costs it has been necessary to increase the precept.

As always the Councillors have looked carefully at what is needed in order to keep any increase to a minimum, and to ensure that the reserves are sufficient to cover any unforeseen expenses as well as the agreed level of running costs. Following a number of meetings to discuss the options, the increase in precept for 2017/18 has been agreed at £15 per year, which is the equivalent to £1.25 per month per Band D property. This brings the precept per year for each Band D property to £70.00.

During the coming year, we will be asking all parish residents for their opinion on whether the Parish Council should fully take over any of the environmental services currently provided by Milton Keynes Council. We will be discussing the proposals with Milton Keynes Council and once we have a clear picture of what will impact on our parish we will undertake a consultation. Please look out for it, and let us have your views on any additional services you would be happy to see the Parish Council provide in the future, or whether you feel the services should remain Milton Keynes Councils responsibility. Any additional services that the Parish Council may take on will have an impact on your precept, so it is very important that you share your views with us to help us make an informed decision.

The table below gives a brief outline of our anticipated expenditure over the coming financial year, and our anticipated income without the parish precept.

Anticipated Expenditure 2017-2018	
Council Admin & Democratic Representation	
Salaries, pensions, tax, training, memberships, expenses, work wear	£108,578.00
Council Office	
Utilities, service charges, insurances, annual maintenance, printing, stationery, building upkeep	£69,836.00
Community Engagement	
Parish fete, Christmas Fayre, coffee mornings. Parish newsletter, CAB provision, grants	£45,850.00
Environmental Expenses	
Orchard, play areas, dog fouling, litter, landscaping	£50,900.00
Allotments	
Powis Lane, Shenley Church End, Crownhill	£29,800.00
Medbourne Pavilion	
Utilities, service charges, annual maintenance, building upkeep	£53,870.00
Youth Provision	
Youth clubs, summer fun sessions, Easter activities	£19,100.00
Community Asset Transfer Process Provision	
Provision to investigate , prepare for and cover legal costs relating to potential asset transfers from Milton Keynes Council	£12,000.00
Contingency & Fees	
Replacement equipment, legal fees, urgent repairs	£20,000.00
Anticipated Income 2017-2018	
Medbourne Income	£56,400.00
Allotment Income	£3,000.00
Allotment Project Funding	£20,653.00
MKC Grant	£7,430.00
Other Income	£1,800.00

To find out more about the Parish Council please take a look at our website:

www.shenleychurchend-pc.co.uk

To keep up to date with our events please Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ShenleyChurchEndPC/

Thank you for your continued support.