

MARTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

The Market House
Church Street
Martock
Somerset TA12 6JL

Tel: 01935 822891

e-mail: business@martock-pc.gov.uk

January 2024

Dear Resident

RE- Parish Council Precept for 2024/25

You may know that soaring costs and demands on services have forced Somerset Council to declare a financial emergency. One of the ways they'll look to save money is by cutting certain services and looking to parish councils to take those services on

Like every other local council across the county, we're preparing for the unknown. We need to ensure we'll have the resources available to keep our town a clean, safe and enjoyable place to live and work in. Unfortunately, it is as yet unclear which services may be cut by Somerset but we have to agree our budget and set our precept now.

In order to be potentially able to mitigate for any cuts to services by Somerset that could have a significantly detrimental effect on our community, we've taken the difficult decision to increase our part of your council tax bill (the precept) from April 2024 by 10% which will enable us to set aside a £50,000 contingency fund for the above reasons.

The actual price increase of the Martock precept will depend on the council tax band of your property. But, as an example, someone living in a Band D property will pay just under 50p more per week towards the work of Martock Parish Council. It is worth noting that, had it been deemed unnecessary to create such a contingency fund, allowing for unavoidable growth and efficiency savings, it would have been possible for us to have set a zero-increase precept for 2024/25. Also, whilst we know that the Martock Precept is high in relation to other comparable nearby parishes, it must be remembered that Martock is unique in choosing to already provide a comprehensive suite of community support services to the more vulnerable members of the Martock Community.

Naturally, not everyone will agree with the decisions we have made. However, hard decisions and difficult choices have to be made. We thank you for your understanding and if you have any questions, please contact us by email, phone or in person using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Best Wishes

Councillor John Hole – Chair, Martock Parish Council

Peter Finnis – Martock Parish Clerk and Proper Officer

