

Parish Precept for 2024-25

Horsmonden Parish Council is responsible for the up keep of several buildings which it owns and on behalf of residents in the village – the Village Hall, The Institute Building (Social Club) including the clock tower and clock mechanism, and the Public Toilets.

The Village Hall and the Institute are both leased out to the various committees who are responsible for internal decoration and day to day running of the buildings but major repairs (inside and out) are the responsibility of the Parish Council, under the terms of the lease agreements .

The Parish Council also owns 47 street lights in the village as well as the play equipment and surfacing at Locket Green and various other small assets such as benches, bins and noticeboards. These assets are held by the Parish Council on behalf of residents and the money required to maintain these assets represents a portion of the council tax which residents pay to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council each year. The precept raised by the PC for 2024-25 was £125,510 and represents a cash increase of £24,024 on last year's precept (or a 19.6% increase on the Parish Council's portion of the Council tax for a Council Tax Band D household, not the whole Council tax). This equates to an increase of 36p per week.

One of the main reasons for the larger than normal increase were the repairs currently being carried out to the Clock Tower, which have been budgeted at £20,000. Last year a survey was carried out following some cracks appearing inside the tower and essential repairs and reinforcement are now required. This involves removing the delicate clock mechanism to prevent any damages during the works and reinstallation afterwards.

The PC will also start building Ear Marked Reserves (EMR's) for the future replacement of street lights, in view of their age as well as setting aside a budget of £4,000 for professional fees, which may be required if the PC seek additional support regarding the proposed large developments in the village.

More detailed information is available to view in the PC's minutes which are posted on our website www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk or from the Clerk on 01892 724989 clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk