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compliant. This makes it difficult to compare Barton to other councils. However, the benchmarking that we have been able to do indicates that we provide good value for money. We will continue to seek grant funding for projects where this is practical. We save thousands because so much work around the village is done by Barton Beavers.

An increasing amount of money is being spent on street lighting - over £1,000 a year. We light up the A603 with your money! We can expect to have to take on more responsibilities like this as the County's and District's finances come under further pressure.

Our finances are sound, but our reserves are slightly below the recommended level. We are aware that we are spending public money, and increased the precept reluctantly. All Parish Councils are obliged to publish financial reports on their web sites, but many are not very compliant. This makes it difficult to compare Barton to other councils. However, the benchmarking that we have been able to do indicates that we provide good value for money. We will continue to seek grant funding for projects where this is practical. We save thousands because so much work around the village is done by Barton Beavers.

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PRECEPT

The funding for parish councils is allocated by the district council and is taken from the area's council tax; this is called an annual precept.

The income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated in the form of estimates and this amount is added to the local council tax and then returned to the parishes in two half-yearly instalments.

We endeavour to keep the Precept as low as possible, and will not ask for an increase unless absolutely necessary. However all Parish Councils are having to take on more and more responsibilities from their County Councils for services originally paid for by the County Council (2012/13 Devolution of Local Services). For example we have to ensure that all bus shelters are clean and not damaged and pay for any repairs where necessary

New legislation demands that parish councils ensure that accounts are open to the public and that we explain expenditure over £100. Hepscott Parish publishes its accounts here on its website and further explanation of itemised expenditure can be found in the minutes of meetings on the 'meetings' page. To understand, in general terms, how we spend your precept a chart for the calendar year of 2014 is appended below. Expenditure was for the year was just over £9,000.

The precept will give a Band D equivalent for 2019/20 of £64.38.

This is an increase of £7.40 or 12.99% above the Band D equivalent charge in 2018/19.

The precept requested is £3000 higher for 2019/20 than the previous year.

The tax base has increased from 386.1 to 388.3 this results in an increase to the Band D equivalent cost.

<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax/how-your-council-tax-is-calculated/>

BARTON PC

Budget summary to justify Precept request

January 2019

Proposed Budget

2019-20

Proposed Expenditure	£ 31467
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Less anticipated non-precept income	<u>-£ 3400</u>
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Shortfall	£ 28067
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Budgeted deficit or surplus	<u>-£3067</u>
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Precept request for 2019-20	£ 25,000
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If the precept remains at £22,000 for Barton, the charge will be £56.65 approx. per band D property. based on the tax base calculation of 388.3 per household (as below)

In recent times Barton PC has spent less than surrounding villages.

If as **recommended** by Governance and finance group, the Precept requested is set at £25000 then the cost per household (25000 divided by 388.3) would be £ 64.38

nb Precept 23000 = 59.23, 24000 = 61.81

Latest figures not produced but 2017-18 precepts in other parishes were:

Comberton £65.04, Coton £64.81, Grantchester £83.07, Madingley £66.88.

The Barton tax base calculation provided by SCDC Accountancy department is as follows

Barton	2019/20 Band D Equivalents
Number of Properties as at 1.10.2018	378
Actual Tax Base on 1.10.2018	408.8
Expected New Properties Chargeable for whole year	0.9
Expected New Properties Chargeable for part of the year	0
Less Discount under LCTS	-19.1
Less Provision for uncollectable (0.6%)	-2.3
Tax Base for the Year	388.3