



## **Minchinhampton Parish Council**

### **Precept Increase and Parish Council Activities 2025/26**

Minchinhampton Parish Council aims to provide transparency and keep residents informed about key decisions that impact the local community. This document explains the increase in the Parish Council's element of your council tax bill.

#### **Public Meeting and Survey Results**

On Tuesday, 19th November 2024, Minchinhampton Parish Council held a public meeting at the Baptist Church Meeting Room at 7 pm. The meeting was advertised widely throughout the parish in local council noticeboards and in businesses and organisations such as Boots the Chemist, Amalfi Restaurant, Horsfall House Charity Shop, M&B Stores, Henry's, The Crown Public House, the Library, Minchinhampton Rugby Club, and Chalford Farm Supplies. It was also publicised on our website, Facebook page, and community Facebook groups like Minch Life (4.7k members) and Everything in Amberley (1.9k members).

The meeting focused on the Council's interest in purchasing the surgery site in Bell Lane for community benefit. All residents were invited to attend, express their opinions, and participate in a vote. A show of hands at the meeting indicated that 71% of attendees were in favour of this purchase, accepting that this would result in an additional cost of approximately 50p per week for a Band D property.

For those unable to attend the meeting, an online survey was available the same week; 81% of those respondents also expressed support for the proposal despite the proposed increase, further indicating strong public backing for the project.

#### **Council Meetings and Public Participation**

The proposed precept increase was discussed in detail at several Finance Committee and full Council meetings in October, November, and December of last year, and was given final approval in January. These meetings are open to the public, and we encourage residents to attend and have their say. There is a designated 'Public Participation' session at the beginning of each meeting where individuals can address the Council directly.

Information on meeting dates, locations, agendas, and minutes is always available on the Parish Council website at [www.minchinhampton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.minchinhampton-pc.gov.uk)

## Details of the Precept Increase

For the financial year 2024/25, the Parish Council's precept demand was £199,653. For 2025/26, it will rise to £264,282, representing an increase of 32.37%. This means an increase of £23.39 annually, or 45p per week, for the average Band D taxpayer, from £77.60 to £100.99 per year.

The Council's approved 2025/26 budget is available on its website at [www.minchinhampton-pc.gov.uk/uploads/mpc-approved-budget-2025-26-for-website.pdf?v=1738847120](http://www.minchinhampton-pc.gov.uk/uploads/mpc-approved-budget-2025-26-for-website.pdf?v=1738847120)

Examples of what the 2025/26 precept will enable the Parish Council to fund include:

- c£50,000 for the first year of loan repayments for the purchase of the surgery site.
- £40,000 for year 1 of improvements to the Parish playing field at Albert Road, Brimscombe, with further significant investment due in 2026/27.
- £25,000 to support the local Youth Club, enabling it to expand and improve services for children in the Parish (approximately 9.5% of the total precept for 2025/26).
- £15,000 for the Improving Minchinhampton Town Centre project.
- £13,500 of grant funding to support local organisations, including Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton Allotment Association, Minchinhampton Sports Association and Minch Life.
- £10,000 towards the total cost of installing low-level lighting up Bell Lane to the car park (a £10,000 grant has already been secured from Stroud District Council for this project)
- essential repairs to the Parish Council's two Grade II listed buildings and other assets.
- a third part-time staff member to ensure the Council has the necessary resources and expertise to continue providing high-quality service to the community.

## Opportunities for Involvement

Minchinhampton Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Councillor and is looking to co-opt a new member. If you are interested in contributing to the direction and decisions of the Council over the next few years, please contact the Parish Office to learn more about this exciting role and the application process.

## Further Questions

I hope this information helps clarify your understanding of the reasons for the increase in your tax bill. Should you have any further questions or need additional details, please do not hesitate to get in touch.