

MORETON VALENCE PARISH COUNCIL

PRECEPT JUSTIFICATION FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

On 24th January 2019 the Council set a budget of £12,538 and a precept of £7,000. This is an increase of £1500 on the precept for 2018/19. The remaining money of £5,538 will be paid from reserves.

As part of the feedback through the Parish Plan that took place in 2013, concerns were raised as to the state of the pedestrian footpath along the A38, some of which has completely disappeared in places. The Parish Council has been in negotiations with Gloucestershire Highways Department. It will cost in the region of £60,000 to renew this path from the Parish border at Whitminster to Hardwicke. Gloucester Highways have agreed to match fund in order to pay for this upgrade. Although the County Council has a statutory duty to provide a safe pathway they have said that it does meet current safety standards and they would not be prepared to do anything more than patch up where needed. Councillors feel that as part of their ongoing Road Safety concerns, a safe path along this major road is essential. It is hoped that further money can be raised through grants. The Parish Council have allowed £5,000 in the budget for this project.

Over the last couple of years, it has become evident that the large layby on the A38 has been used for illegal and antisocial behaviour that has resulted in a negative effect on the surrounding area. The Parish Council have been working together with Hardwicke Parish Council, the local land owner and Stroud District Council in order to substantially reduce or eliminate this activity. Following a trial, it has been decided that CCTV is the best way of achieving this. It is hoped that grants will pay towards the initial set up costs, but the Parish Council has budgeted £2,000 towards the CCTV camera.

Other increases result from the need for a new Parish Noticeboard and a finance reference book as well as inflation expenses.

The extra £1,500 will mean an increase of £19 per year for the average band D home in the parish. The Council feels that this is justified for the above projects to take place.