

NORTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

North Marston Parish Council has increased the Precept for the financial year 2009-2010 to an amount of £16,000.00.

The Council believes that its Parishioners may like to understand why this has been necessary and therefore would like to inform you that the decision was made on the basis of the following information:

1. The National Association of Local Councils is recommended a contingency reserve fund of £30,000 for **all** Councils in case of need, and litigation. Your Council considered this to be an excessive amount, however agreed there should be reserves of the annual precept.
2. There is currently concern that the Government might cap precepts, therefore they needed to ensure the Precept is at an appropriate amount in order to continue to provide services and facilities to the village.
3. £1000 has been put in budget to assist the Village Shop Committee in getting this project off the ground. When the shop is up and running any profits from the shop will be given back to the community.
4. £1000 has been budgeted for an additional bus shelter on Granborough Road towards Winslow. £1000 was precepted for this project last year so it is hoped that this can be completed this year.
5. £1000 has been budgeted for the cost of an election should this be necessary – this is a one off and would not be repeated unless an election is held.
6. £1000 has been budgeted for councillors allowance – again this is not normally spent however needs to be there in case any Councillor wished to claim their allowance so as to give all residents an equal opportunity of undertaking the role as Councillor. This amount would not be budgeted for again until this had been spent and it is not anticipated that it will be.
7. The remaining amount budgeted for covers the normal running costs of the parish.

To conclude the Council unanimously resolved to increase the Precept for 2009/10 to £16,000.00 to allow improvements to be made to the village, and future years it is anticipated there would then be a normal inflationary increase subject to projects and requirements at the time.

North Marston Parish Council