

BOTTESFORD
PARISH
COUNCIL



Kathryn Price
Parish Clerk
Parish Office
The Old School
Grantham Road
Bottesford
NG13 0DF

10 April 2018

Bottesford Parish Council Precept 2018 / 2019 Each year the Parish Council sets the precept for the forthcoming year, based on our planned expenditure for local work and projects (cutting hedges and grass verges, supporting local associations, playground maintenance, etc)

The Parish Council then communicates this precept to Melton Borough Council who collect it along with the Borough Council Tax.

At the January 2018 meeting of the Parish Council the Councillors agreed to a 0% increase to the precept in 2018 / 2019 which would have maintained the precept at the same level as 2017 / 2018.

An error in the way the Parish Council reported this to Melton Borough Council has instead resulted in the precept being declared as £116,380 instead of £100,463. £15,917 or 15.8% higher than the Council had planned. This equates to an increase of £11.43 per year for the average Band D household.

The Parish Council has been in discussions with Melton Borough Council to ascertain whether this can be rectified, and whether the precept be changed back to the intended 0% increase, but the cost and amount organization needed to rectify the issue would be prohibitive.

Instead the Parish Council, at the April meeting of Council, has taken the following steps:

1. The Council decided to formally change the precept to £116,380 for the year 2018 / 2019.
2. The Council decided to consider planning a 2019/2020 budget to include a reduction in precept equating to the £15,917, before returning to a 0% for subsequent years.
3. The Council decided to ask parishioners how they would like the £15,917 to be spent. This process of consultation will happen across the months of April and May and a proposal put to the June meeting of Parish Council.
4. The Council decided to launch an internal investigation to understand how the error occurred and to make changes to ensure this does not happen in the future.

The Council apologises for this mistake and is open to discuss the decisions made above at the public sessions held before Parish Council meetings over the months of April, May and June.

Cllr Bob Bayman

Chairman Bottesford Parish Council.