

Dear Resident

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

May I start by apologising for this year's above inflation increase for the parish council precept; setting the precept is probably the most important decision that a parish council can take. Although the actual amount paid by each household is small compared to the Council Tax paid to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council any increase, especially when seen as a percentage needs to be justified to residents. This letter sets out the thinking behind the decision by Meriden Parish Council to increase its precept by 10% for the financial year 2021/2022. This is clearly not something that we take any pleasure in passing onto Meriden residents, in what has been a difficult and unprecedented year for many of us to navigate.

• **Precept Increase**

	<b>2021-2022</b>
Precept 10%	<b>£57,880</b>
Increase p.a.	<b>+ £5,297</b>
Increase	<b>£45.90</b>
Per Band D p.a.	<b>+ £4.17</b>
Based on previous year	<b>1260</b>
Support Grant	<b>0</b>
New Indicative Tax Base per Band D	<b>1261</b>
Indicative Increase to Band D	<b>8</b>
Increase per Band D dwelling p.a.	<b>£4.17p/annum 0.0801p/week</b>

• Solihull MBC has agreed the parish council notice for a precept of £57,880.

• Equating to a Band D charge of £45.90.

• This is a 10% increase compared to the 2020/21 Band D charge of £41.73.

• This means an increase of £4.17 pence per annum per Band D dwelling.

• Equating to 0.08 pence per week.

• Finance Committee agreed and recommended increase to full council at 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 finance meeting.

• Full Council approved 10% increase to precept at 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 parish council meeting with effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 for financial year 2021-2022.

• **Justification**

There is no longer a support grant from Solihull MBC which finished at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Therefore we need to make provision for this shortfall and currently there is no cap for precept increase. Additional service delivery to the community is highlighted in the Parish Action Plan and Business Plan which includes Youth Council, Climate Emergency, and Infrastructure including digital review, communications and Apprenticeship/Trainee scheme. Members agreed that a 10% increase to precept would be prudent at this time and makes a sensible provision of additional expenditure to current community service delivery provided by the parish council.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to serve our local community.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Rosie Weaver BEM**  
Chair of Meriden Parish Council