



## Precept Request for 2012/13

Issue No. 10

January 2012

### Welcome to this special edition of Barkway Bulletin.

In November 2010, Barkway Parish Council published a detailed special edition of the Bulletin to explain how the finances of the Parish Council were being managed and how a system of careful budgetary accounting had been introduced and was being employed to calculate the amount of money to be requested as a precept. The precept is the amount of money a parish council, after completing its budget for the ensuing year, can ask the billing authority - the District Council - to collect on their behalf as part of the Council Tax demand. The precept is converted into an amount per Council Tax band that is added on to your Council Tax bill.

Our accounting practice of calculating the precept had produced a marked increase in the figure for 2011 compared to the figure requested for the previous year.

The same process has been used to calculate the precept request for 2012/13 and although it had been thought at the time, the precept for 2012 could be reduced significantly, the budgeting process has produced a figure of £22,000 for this year - a reduction of £2000 from last year's figure and a reduction of just over 8% in the parish council portion of the Council Tax bill.

The Parish Council is duty bound to manage the finances of the Parish efficiently and wisely and has to ensure that the finances are maintained and sustained on a sound footing and do not have to rely on the generosity and good will of other people.

As with last year, it is felt that in the interests of transparency, the thinking and calculations behind this year's request should be explained to you.

The Parish Council has a sub committee which reviews, researches and recommends to the Council the finances needed to manage the affairs of the Parish for the coming year. With the process of monitoring budgets against expenditure under the various portfolios and taking into account current and planned activities, the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and the Finance Committee were able to arrive at a figure for 2012 with an even greater degree of accuracy than previously, albeit at a higher figure than anticipated. It was upon the Finance Committee's recommendation that the Council approved at their December meeting a precept request of £22000 for 2012/2013.

Many factors had to be taken into account, none more than the ever increasing costs of power, insurance and, importantly, costs of employing and keeping a competent Parish Clerk. Moreover, the Parish Council has already embarked on a series of improvements to the village, with several more planned for this year. It was, with these factors in mind that the figure of £22000 was arrived at and overleaf you will find a summary of the situation together with a breakdown of the budget. Please remember that more comprehensive and the latest figures are always available from the Parish Clerk. Following the end of the financial year, the latest accounts are published as part of the annual report that is distributed to all households and posted on the website.

### STOP PRESS



At the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th January, Steve Alsop (left) was elected Chairman of the Council and Jim Dalton (right) was elected Vice Chairman. More details of these appointments will be published on the village website and in the next edition of the Bulletin.



## Account to 31st March 2012 and Budget for 2012/2013

Item	Account for year ending 31/03/2012		Year ending 31/03/2013
	Budget	Estimated to 31/03/2012	Budget
<b>Brought forward</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>6,093</b>
Precept	24,000	24,000	22,000
Other income	1,500	19,329 <i>See note 1</i>	2,750
<b>Total income</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>43,329</b>	<b>24,750</b>
Community liaison	1,360	1,092	1,300
Environment	4,921	6,045	3,500
Equipment	1,000	13,783 <i>See note 2</i>	1,500
Parish administration	7,399	5,537	5,460
Reading Room	3,000	1,631	1,000
“Rec” and Pavilion	3,250	3,808	5,300 <i>See note 3</i>
Staff	5,000	5,386	6,600 <i>See note 4</i>
Diamond Jubilee		1,000 <i>See note 5</i>	1,000 <i>See note 6</i>
Reserve	2,000	2,000	2,100
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>27,930</b>	<b>40,282</b>	<b>27,760</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>3,083</b>

### To summarise

Estimated income to 31/03/2012 + brought forward	Estimated expenditure to 31/03/2012	Estimated carry forward at 31/03/2012	Budgeted income to 31.03.2013 + brought forward	Budgeted expenditure to 31/03/2013	Estimated carry forward at 31/03/2013
46,375	40,282	6,093	30,843	27,760	3,083

Note 1: This figure includes an amount received under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Note 2: This figure includes the costs of items of equipment for the recreation ground and village pond area and the installation of a bus shelter which were not included in the original budget and were purchased with Section 106 monies received.

Note 3: This figure is increased to cover the costs of additional expenditure planned for a new pavilion.

Note 4: This figure is increased as the Parish Clerk's salary has been evaluated and is now on the accepted industry scale.

Note 5: This item of expenditure will be met by funds already received from a grant from the North Hertfordshire Partnership 'Rural Community Pot'

Note 6: This figure is included to cover the Parish Council's contribution to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

### Your Parish Councillors with their responsibilities and contact details

Steve Alsop: (Chairman) Environment

Jim Dalton: (Vice Chairman) Highways

Ken McCormick: Community Liaison

Tony Terry: Property & Leisure

Jo Cockerton: Young People & Planning

Simon Taylor: Pavilion Project & Parish Plan update

Andrew Murphy: Corporate Governance & Grants

Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

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**The next edition of Barkway Bulletin will be the scheduled issue for March. This will contain the latest news and happenings in the Parish and will provide up to date reports on the various projects that are in hand.**

*We are always interested in hearing your views. If you have any comments on the way the figures are presented in this issue of Barkway Bulletin or how you would like to see them presented in the future, please contact the editor at [gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk)*

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