Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

March 2023

Council Tax and Parish Precepts

At the Borough Council Meeting on 21st February 2023, Gravesham Borough Council is expected to approve the Council Tax for 2023/24. The following annual Council Taxes are expected to apply to all properties in Gravesham:

Council Tax	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Gravesh'm	£149.64	£174.58	£199.52	£224.46	£274.34	£324.22	£374.10	£448.92
KCC	£1022.82	£1193.29	£1363.76	£1354.23	£1875.17	£2216.11	£2557.05	£3068.46
Police	£162.10	£189.12	£216.13	£243.15	£297.18	£351.22	£405.25	£486.30
Fire & Rescue	£58.20	£67.90	£77.60	£87.30	£106.70	£126.10	£145.50	£174.60
Total	£1392.76	£1624.89	£1857.01	£1909.14	£2553.39	£3017.65	£3481.90	4178.28

In addition to the Council taxes shown above, the annual parish precept charges are as follows:

Parish	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cobham	£44.45	£51.86	£59.27	£66.68	£81.50	£96.32	£111.13	£133.36
Higham	£56.31	£65.69	£75.08	£84.46	£103.23	£122.00	£140.77	£168.92
Luddesdown	£47.76	£55.72	£63.68	£71.64	£87.56	£103.48	£119.40	£143.28
Meopham	£32.74	£38.20	£43.65	£49.11	£60.02	£70.94	£81.85	£98.22
Shorne	**£26.85**	**£31.33**	**£35.80**	**£40.28**	**£49.23**	**£58.18**	**£67.13**	**£80.56**
Vigo	£120.89	£141.03	£161.18	£181.33	£221.63	£261.92	£302.22	£362.66

Shorne Parish Council's precept for 2023/24 represents an increase of £3.71 a year for Band D properties, about one penny a day, and once again Shorne's precept per property is the lowest in Gravesham. However, the amount of funding available from Kent County Council and Gravesham continues to be squeezed due to financial constraints, which puts more pressure on parish finances. In order to be able to continue to invest in the parish, it is likely that it will be necessary to continue to increase the precept by more than inflation in future years.

Council Elections 4th May

This year will see the local Borough and Parish Council elections on Thursday 4th May. For the first time, voters will need to produce photo identification at the Polling Stations. This can include your passport, driving licence, official bus pass, blue badge, etc. Full details can be found on the Electoral Commission website at https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id, which includes a link to obtain photo ID at https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate if you don't already have it.

This will be the first Borough Council elections under the revised Ward Boundaries. The current 2-member Shorne, Cobham & Luddesdown Ward will cease to exist, and Shorne will become part of a new 3-member Higham & Shorne Ward. Voters in Shorne will be able to vote for up to three candidates.

If you are interested in standing as a candidate for Shorne Parish Council, an information briefing for prospective candidates for the Parish Council elections will be held on **Thursday 9 March 2023 at 6.30pm** at Gravesend Civic Centre, and further information can be found at https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/elections-voting/local-parish-elections-2023.

20 mph Zone Update

A further meeting has been held with KCC Highways to discuss progress with the proposed 20 mph zone. Their programme has slipped, and they are now planning to introduce the scheme during the summer, subject to their being no problems with the Traffic Regulation Order consultation. KCC has agreed to extend the zone to include all of Mill Hill Lane, and to extend it further down Forge Lane to just beyond St Katherine's Cottages. The remainder of Forge Lane down to Shorne Crossroads will be reduced from the current national speed limit to 30 mph.

Shorne Spring Clean Litter Patrol 18th March

This year's Spring litter patrol in Shorne will take place on Saturday 18th March, weather permitting. As usual, we will meet up in Shorne Village Hall car park at 09.45am to collect our litter pickers, bags, and hi-viz vests, ready for a 10 o'clock start. We expect to finish by midday.

If you haven't done this before, why not give it a go? It's not hard work, you meet new people, and it is strangely satisfying! If you would like to join us or would like further information, please contact Bob on 01474 822680 or by email at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk.

Coronation Celebrations

Plans are taking shape to celebrate the coronation of Charles III on 6th May. This will include a Celebration Tea at the village hall, where parishioners will be able to watch the events unfold in the company of others, with refreshments served and entertainment for children.

Date for the diary.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th April. Please come along, it's your chance to ask questions and find out what's going on, and we would very pleased to see you there.

Parish Council Meetings in March

Thursday 9th March - Planning & Highways Committee

Thursday 23rd March - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

The meetings will commence at 7.30pm in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council