



## Chairman's Briefing – Precept Increase

### EGM Meeting of Full Council – Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Last night, at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) Councillors reviewed the Parish Council decision to increase the precept for 2024-25 by 44.42%. While the meeting was open to the public, only a Lightwater Borough Ward Councillor attended, although a written representation was received from a Windlesham resident which was read aloud to the Council.

The motion to reduce the increase to 22.98% was tabled and following extensive deliberation and careful consideration, the motion was defeated. The Council affirmed its decision to increase the precept by 44.42% by 8 votes to 7.

The precept represents the amount the Parish Council charges residents per household for service provision, as reflected in Council Tax bills. Historically, the precept charge for the three villages of Bagshot, Windlesham, and Lightwater has been the lowest in the region, and well below national levels. The agreed annual increases per household for 2024-25 are outlined in the table below:

**2024-25 Increase in Parish Council Tax Per Annum**

| Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £12.37 | £14.43 | £16.49 | £18.55 | £22.67 | £26.79 | £30.92 | £37.10 |

The rationale behind the increase is multifaceted and complex. In essence, the rise can be attributed to inflationary pressures in recent years, which can no longer be absorbed. Additionally, anticipated increases in cost are expected from the retendering of the Greenspace contract, the necessary maintenance and repair of council assets, and initiatives to enhance communication with residents. However, this year's substantial increase included £75,000 for significant improvements across the three village cemeteries.

More information on the Council Tax increase will be available to residents over the coming months.

**Alf Turner**  
**Chairman**  
**Windlesham Parish Council**



# Windlesham Parish Council

Windlesham Lightwater Bagshot