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# GOXHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Goxhill Parish Council 2021-2022 brief**

The Goxhill Parish Council precept for 2021-22 is considerably higher than previous years and it requires an explanation. Precept comparisons are referred to as D-Band equivalents, in previous years Goxhill Parish Council has had an average of £67/year, this year it is £163.55 and this is the reason why.

2020-21 was a difficult year resulting in our reserves being severely depleted below the 50-100% of operating budget that we should hold. The Skatepark was completed 4 years after it was first proposed, the MUGA was found to be in need of resurfacing and trees in the park needed attention to make them safe. All these needed funding from the reserves because they hadn't been planned for.

This year it has been clarified that the Memorial Hall is owned in trust by the parish council for the benefit of the parishioners of Goxhill; due to this there are legal fees to pay, urgent repairs to the kitchen floor and forward funding to cover next year.

We are now responsible for cutting the grass verges and footpaths and whilst we get funding from NLC we have decided to increase the scope and frequency of the cuts in response to requests from parishioners.

We have a responsibility to carry out safety inspections in the cemetery and trees in the parish. We need to carry out essential maintenance on ditches, hedgerows and bridleways. In these difficult times we have supported local organisations with grants and we have a Covid-19 contingency fund for whatever community support we may be asked for.

So, at this year's precept meeting your council decided to: replenish the reserves; ensure that all known works for the coming year were costed and included; add contingency funds for work that may arise from these works; start to build ringfenced reserves for future maintenance and long term projects.

All this will put the Goxhill Parish Council funds back on a firm footing with reserves to ensure we can meet any unexpected costs, funds to cover all known expenditure without drawing from reserves, and a little set aside for the future. We expect this to be a one-off precept with next year being lower.

The proposed precept detail is now available to be viewed on the council's website

We thank you for your understanding

Kindest Regards