

Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

April 2019

Parish Precept

At the Borough Council Meeting on 26th February 2019, Gravesham Borough Council approved the parish precept for 2019/20. The property charges are as follows.

Parish	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Vigo	£95.55	£111.48	£127.40	£143.33	£175.18	£207.03	£238.88	£286.66
Luddesdown	£37.67	£43.94	£50.22	£56.50	£69.06	£81.61	£94.17	£113.00
Higham	£36.87	£42.58	£49.16	£55.31	£67.60	£79.89	£92.18	£110.62
Meopham	£20.96	£24.45	£27.95	£31.44	£38.43	£45.41	£52.40	£62.88
Cobham	£20.29	£23.67	£27.05	£30.43	£37.19	£43.95	£50.72	£60.86
Shorne	£16.40	£19.13	£21.87	£24.60	£30.07	£35.53	£41.00	£49.20

For Shorne, this equates to an increase of approximately 4% on last year. This is due to a 2.65% increase requested by Shorne Parish Council, combined with changes to the tax base. It should be noted that parish precepts vary according to the services and facilities provided by the parish councils, and the mix and number of properties in each band in the parish.

In addition, the following Council Tax applies to all properties in Gravesham:

Council Tax	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£1,182.31	£1,379.36	£1,576.41	£1,773.46	£2,167.56	£2,561.66	£2,955.77	£3,546.92

This equates to an increase of 5.59% on last year. This results from a 2.97% increase from Gravesham Borough Council, a 5% increase by Kent County Council, a 14.3% increase from the Police & Crime Commissioner, and a 2.98% from the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Litter Patrols

Despite the windy weather, a huge total of 50 volunteers took part in the Shorne litter patrols in March, an unprecedented number. Cllr. Lisa McCluskey kicked it off on Sunday 10th March, when she led a team of 8 volunteers round Michael Gardens and other parts of Shorne West. During the next few days, 6 more volunteers tackled litter in various parts of Shorne. On Saturday 16th March, 30 volunteers (including Adam Holloway MP) fanned out across the village from Shorne Village Hall, supplemented by a team led by Russell Cooper who cleared

the rubbish from Shorne Ifield. And the next day 4 more volunteers litter picked Thong and Green Farm Lane area to round off proceedings.

Shorne's litter patrol was co-ordinated with another 42 litter pickers from Cobham and Chalk, and we joined hands with them at Halfpence Lane and at the Crematorium, making a clean sweep from Sole Street right through Shorne village and Pear Tree Lane to the Lion Garage.

Honorary Freeman of the Borough

We are pleased to report that Cllr. Robin Theobald has been admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Gravesham, in recognition of his long and eminent services to the Borough. The honour was conferred on Robin at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Borough Council at the Civic Centre on 26th February 2019.

End of an Era

It is with sadness that we have to have to report that Theresa Martin, Shorne Parish Council's Clerk, has announced her decision to retire after 33 years of faithful service with the Parish Council. In that time, Theresa has seen many councillors come and go, and has brought a sense of continuity to the Parish Council. Loyal to the end, Theresa has agreed to continue until we have found a suitable replacement, and to help her successor settle into the role.

Theresa's last 'official' engagement will be her attendance at the Civic Service and reception on Sunday 30th June, but no doubt we will see her from time to time afterwards.

We are sure that all councillors, past and present, wish Theresa a long and happy retirement.

Parish Assembly 18th April

This year's annual Parish Assembly will take place in the small hall at Shorne Village Hall on Thursday 18th April, starting at 7.30pm. This is where we report on our activities and matters affecting Shorne over the past year, and it is also an opportunity for parishioners to raise issues and ask questions. We also provide an opportunity for other local clubs and organisations to report on their activities.

Attendance from local residents has been disappointing in recent years, and we would really welcome your presence, support, and input to this occasion. We look forward to seeing a few of you there.

Other Parish Council Meetings in April

Thursday 4th April - Parish Council Meeting

This meeting will be at 7.45pm in the Committee Room in Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Chairman
Shorne Parish Council