

# Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham



## THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

March 2021

### Council Tax and Parish Precepts

At the Borough Council Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, Gravesham Borough Council met to approve the Parish Precepts and Council Tax for 2021/22. The annual property precept charges are as follows.

| Parish        | Band A        | Band B        | Band C        | Band D        | Band E        | Band F        | Band G        | Band H        |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cobham        | £29.55        | £34.48        | £39.40        | £44.33        | £54.18        | £64.03        | £73.88        | £88.66        |
| Higham        | £39.43        | £46.00        | £52.57        | £59.14        | £72.78        | £85.82        | £98.57        | £118.28       |
| Luddesdown    | £45.99        | £53.65        | £61.32        | £68.98        | £84.81        | £99.64        | £114.97       | £137.96       |
| Meopham       | £25.95        | £30.27        | £34.60        | £38.92        | £47.57        | £56.22        | £64.87        | £77.84        |
| <b>Shorne</b> | <b>£22.38</b> | <b>£26.11</b> | <b>£29.84</b> | <b>£33.57</b> | <b>£41.03</b> | <b>£48.49</b> | <b>£55.95</b> | <b>£67.14</b> |
| Vigo          | £107.08       | £124.93       | £142.77       | £160.62       | £196.31       | £232.01       | £267.70       | £321.24       |

Shorne Parish Council's precept for 2021/22 represents an increase of just under 2% on 2020/21, equivalent to an increase of just over one penny a week for Band D properties. Once again, Shorne's precept per property is the lowest in Gravesham. However, this puts us at a disadvantage in comparison to other parishes in terms of spending power, and there is limited funding available for investments in improvements for the parish. Even routine maintenance such as resurfacing the car park next to the village hall or repainting the railings in The Street would mean that we have little or no funds available for any other capital expenditure. As an example, we would like to upgrade the children's play area in Shorne Common, but we are dependent on grants from other organisations. In order to remedy this, it would be necessary to increase the precept by more than inflation in future years.

In addition to the parish precepts above, the following 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           |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gravesham     | £142.02         | £165.69          | £189.36          | £213.03          | £260.37          | £307.71          | £355.05          | £426.06          |
| KCC           | £945.84         | £1,103.48        | £1,261.12        | £1,418.76        | £1,734.04        | £2,049.32        | £2,364.60        | £2,837.52        |
| Police        | £145.43         | £169.67          | £193.91          | £218.15          | £266.63          | £315.11          | £363.58          | £436.30          |
| Fire & Rescue | £53.88          | £62.86           | £71.84           | £80.82           | £98.78           | £116.74          | £134.70          | £161.64          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>£1287.17</b> | <b>£1,501.70</b> | <b>£1,716.23</b> | <b>£1,930.76</b> | <b>£2,359.82</b> | <b>£2,788.88</b> | <b>£3,217.93</b> | <b>£3,861.52</b> |

## **Sewage Problems**

We are aware of a blocked sewer in The Street at the end of January, which resulted in sewage backing up into gardens – not a pleasant experience for residents. It transpired that the underground sewer was blocked with wet wipes. Despite what some manufacturers claim, few wet wipes, baby wipes, or make-up wipes readily disintegrate when they are flushed into the sewer system. Some take years to biodegrade. To avoid similar problems in the future, please do not flush wipes down the toilet.

## **HGVs in Shorne**

Despite the fact that the whole of Shorne village including Thong is subject to a 2 metre width prohibition except for access, a number of HGVs continue to end up in the village. Whenever the Parish Council is aware of such an incident, it is reported to KCC. If the report is accompanied by a time, registration number, and fleet operator, we also write directly to the vehicle operator, although this is not always possible with foreign HGVs. At the Parish Council's request, KCC will be installing improved signage in Brewers Road. It remains to be seen whether this results in a significant reduction in HGV transgressions.

## **Appointment of New Parish Councillor**

Shorne Parish Council is pleased to report that Allison Franks has been co-opted to the position of Parish Councillor for Shorne Village Ward. It is expected that Allison will be sworn in and sign the declaration of office at the Parish Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February, thus bringing the Parish Council back up to full strength.

Shorne Parish Council would also like to record its appreciation of the interest shown by other applicants for the position.

## **Parish Council Meetings in March**

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Planning & Highways Committee
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

Meetings will be held by remote video conferencing on Zoom until further notice. If you wish to attend any of the meetings, please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org) for joining instructions.

## **National Lockdown: Stay At Home**

Despite the recent reductions in the rate of new COVID-19 infections, we are still under lockdown. Please do not leave your home unless it is absolutely necessary. Residents are advised to stay up to date and continue to follow the latest precautions published at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and the government advice published at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

If you are able to, please support those more vulnerable residents who may be housebound or unable to collect their prescriptions or get to the shops. If you require help, please contact: <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/covid-19/help-and-support/overview>. For urgent needs, Kent County Council's helpline is available 24 hours a day for vulnerable people, telephone 03000 41 92 92.

Bob Lane  
Shorne Parish Council