

Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham



THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

April 2024

Council Tax and Parish Precepts

At the Borough Council Meeting on 20th February 2024, Gravesham Borough Council approved the Council Tax for 2024/25. The following annual Council Taxes 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	£154.02	£179.69	£205.36	£231.03	£282.37	£333.71	£385.05	£426.06
KCC	£1073.78	£1252.86	£1431.84	£1610.82	£1968.78	£2326.74	£2684.70	£3221.64
Police	£170.77	£199.23	£227.69	£256.15	£313.07	£369.99	£426.92	£512.30
Fire & Rescue	£59.94	£69.93	£79.92	£89.91	£109.89	£129.87	£149.85	£179.82
Total	£1458.51	£1701.71	£1944.81	£2187.91	£2674.11	£3160.31	£3646.52	£4339.82

In addition to the Council taxes 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	£84.57	£98.63	£112.72	£126.81	£154.99	£183.17	£211.35	£253.62
Higham	£64.64	£75.41	£86.19	£96.96	£118.51	£140.05	£161.60	£193.92
Luddesdown	£51.04	£59.55	£68.05	£76.56	£93.57	£110.59	£127.60	£153.12
Meopham	£42.29	£49.34	£56.39	£63.44	£77.54	£91.64	£105.73	£126.88
Shorne	£25.55	£29.80	£34.05	£38.31	£46.82	£55.34	£63.85	£76.62
Vigo	£125.46	£146.37	£167.28	£188.18	£230.01	£271.83	£313.65	£376.38

Shorne Parish Council's precept for 2024/25 represents a **reduction of 4.9%**, equivalent to £1.97 a year for Band D properties, and once again Shorne's precept per property is the lowest in Gravesham, and by a considerable margin. However, when comparing parish precepts, it is important to understand that not only do parish councils have differing populations and tax bases, they also have different duties and responsibilities. For example, Meopham, Higham, and Vigo have street lights to maintain and upgrade; Cobham and Meopham are responsible for maintaining public toilets; Meopham and Vigo have their own council offices to run, and Vigo has covenant control responsibilities and extensive grounds to manage and maintain.

Shorne Crossroads

24th February was a sad day for Shorne when an elderly resident was knocked down and killed at Shorne Crossroads. Whilst the cause and contributory factors of this tragic accident are not known at this stage, the crossroads have long been identified as the location with the highest number of accidents and injuries in the parish. Consequently, it is included in Shorne Parish Council's highways improvement plan, which we are required to submit to Kent County Council for their consideration in their role as the highways' authority. Partly as a result of this, KCC referred the issue to their Road Safety Intelligence and Innovation Team to carry out a collision assessment review for the crossroads, and it is currently under review through their Crash Remedial Measures process. We will continue to press Kent County Council to introduce effective measures to make the crossroads safer for pedestrians, drivers, and other road users.

Trees, Bushes, & Shrubs Obstructing Roads and Pathways

Did you know that under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980, it is the property owner or occupier's legal responsibility to ensure that their hedges, trees, and shrubs do not obstruct public footpaths, or any highways, or the view of drivers? This is a good time of year to cut back your vegetation to make sure that your hedges, trees, or garden shrubs are not obstructing footpaths or making it necessary for pedestrians to walk further out in the road. Please think of road users and pedestrians, including those with pushchairs, and don't wait for Kent County Council to serve you a statutory 14-day notice.

Spring Clean Litter Patrol Saturday 13th April

The annual group litter patrol is scheduled to take place on Saturday 13th April, weather permitting. We meet at 09.45 in the car park next to the village hall for a safety briefing, issue of bags and litter pickers, ready for a 10 o'clock start. Unfortunately, the Autumn litter patrol had to be cancelled due to lack of participants, and it was decided in future to carry out just one annual organised litter patrol in Spring. But if it is to continue, it does need participants. If you would like to take part, let Bob know at bob.lane@gmx.co.uk.

Annual Parish Assembly Thursday 26th April

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place at the Village Hall from 7.30pm on Thursday 26th April. This is your chance to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, and to raise any issues. We also expect to make a special presentation during the evening. Refreshments will be available, and we hope to see you there.

Parish Council Meetings in March

- 7.30pm Thursday 11th April - Extraordinary Meeting of the Council (in private)
- 7.40pm Thursday 11th April - Parish Council Meeting (conference room)
- 7.30pm Thursday 25th April - Annual Parish Assembly (small hall)

The meetings will take place at Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council