

# Southam Town Council Newsletter

## Precept 2022

[www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

### PRECEPT 2022/2023

At its meeting on 13th January 2022, Southam Town Council resolved to set a 2022/2023 expenditure budget of **£282,610** as detailed below, offset by an income of £6,000.

The Town Council's share of the Council Tax for a Band D property will be £90.84 for the year – an increase of 5%, or £4.32, on the current year.

\*ER = Earmarked Reserves

GENERAL	
<b>Management</b>	
Contribution to Grange Hall	2000
Audit Fee	1200
Insurance	3550
Legal Fees & Services	4000
Neighbourhood Plan	*ER
Telephone and Broadband	1100
Postage	*ER
Office	2000
Intruder Alarm	433
IT	10000
<b>Total Management</b>	<b>24283</b>
<b>Salaries</b>	
Office salaries	114518
Office cleaning	1402
Travelling Expenses	*ER
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>115919</b>
<b>Information</b>	
Newsletter	2242
Membership Associations	1750
Conference/Training Fees	1000
Advertising	*ER
<b>Total Information</b>	<b>4992</b>
<b>Mayoral</b>	
Allowance	2270
Regalia	300
<b>Total Mayoral</b>	<b>2570</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Town Centre Development	*ER
Elections	*ER
<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>*ER</b>
<b>Total General</b>	<b>147764</b>

REC & AMENITIES/MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenities</b>	
Trees	15000
Holywell	*ER
Salt/Litter/Dog Bins	750
Flying Fields Community Hall	10000
CCTV	3965
Hire of portable toilets	428
Footpaths Amenity Spaces	20000
<b>Total Recreation &amp; Amenities</b>	<b>50143</b>
<b>Maintenance &amp; Repairs:</b>	
Repairs/inspections/replacement	12000
Darcy Flood Alarm Maintenance	650
Grounds Maintenance Services	7741
Roundabout Maintenance	5000
War Memorial	*ER
<b>Total Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>	<b>25391</b>
<b>Total Rec &amp; Amenities/Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>	<b>75534</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>The Grange Hall</b>	
Capital Expenditure	1000
<b>Total Grange Hall</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Street Lighting</b>	
Maintenance	1250
Supply of Electricity	7500
Columns & Repairs	15000
<b>Total Street Lighting</b>	<b>23750</b>
<b>Grass Cutting</b>	
Grass Cutting	15892
<b>Total Grass Cutting</b>	<b>15892</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>	
Voluntary Transport Scheme	5059
Section 137 grants	3940
CAB	*ER
Southam Youth Services	*ER
Southam Christmas Lights	6172
Southam in Bloom	3500
<b>Total Community Grants</b>	<b>18671</b>
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>59313</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>282610</b>

# 2022/2023 PRECEPT COMMENTARY



The expenditure that the Town Council makes on behalf of residents is funded mostly by the precept – a small charge that towns can make that is added to the Council Tax. The Town Council receives only a tiny proportion of the total Council Tax compared to that for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the District and County Councils.

This year, the Town Council has agreed to increase its share of the overall Council Tax bill by 5%, or £4.32, for each Band D property. This is about the same increase as last year.

When the Town Council decide their precept, they review very carefully each budget line to ensure they are meeting their obligations and objectives. The budget figures for 2022/2023 are based on a 3.8% Consumer Price Index. Where there is clear need to revise the figure, this has been based on current levels of expenditure or changes likely to occur – and if necessary, new budget lines added.

Where there is an underspend on a budget, the remaining monies are moved to an earmarked reserve to off-set the cost of the following year's budget for that item. Alternatively, an earmarked reserve can be where the council has saved up for something, such as computer replacements. The Council also has a general reserve. This is currently too small, and the Council do need to gradually build that up again to guard against unforeseen emergencies.

We are sure residents can appreciate, prices go up and very rarely go down. This year the budget had had to take into account increases, such as the Consumer Price Index (rising from 0.7% to 3.8%) and impending National Insurance contributions. Additional budget allocation had to be made for items such as the New Southam Flying Fields Community Hall, CCTV, and roundabout maintenance. However, the Council have been able to make some savings, such as travelling expenses, postage, and photocopying/stationery – especially now we've moved towards more digital resources.

A meeting to decide this year's precept was held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This is a public meeting and residents are encouraged to attend so they can hear the discussions and resolutions the Council make on their behalf.

## JOB VACANCY

### COMMUNITY HALLS ADMINISTRATOR

Closing Date: Friday 25th February 2022

To manage the Town Council's Community Halls and to perform any other duties as required by the Town Clerk.

- Must be flexible in their working hours
- Must be happy to work as part of a small team
- Must be aware of financial practices
- Hall/Centre Management experience is desirable

#### Hours of Work:

25 hours per week (Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm), and an additional 5 hours worked flexibly. Attendance at evening meetings, training courses, & Council events also required.

#### Salary:

£22,627 - £24,491 (pro rata)

To apply, please forward your CV and covering letter (giving examples/evidence as to how you meet the essential requirements of the person specification) to the Town Clerk: [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk).

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE: BECOME A COUNCILLOR

### WE HAVE TWO CASUAL VACANCIES

If you are passionate about your local community, **we need you**. Councillors make a huge difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they serve to put themselves forward for election.

If you would like to register your interest, or find out some more information, please email:

[clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk).

## COVID GUIDANCE CHANGES

**let's do the right thing for Warwickshire** The Government recently announced changes to the national guidance to minimize the spread. From 27 January, people are no longer required to wear face coverings, but they are strongly encouraged to continue to do so in enclosed or busy public spaces, such as shops or on public transport.

**Southam Town Council**

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**Useful Numbers**

**Mayor:** Cllr Graham Foster

 [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

Stratford District Council: 01789 267575

**Town Clerk:** Mrs D Carro

 01926814004

Warwickshire County: 01926 410410

**AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST**