

**February 2011**  
Special edition  
for inclusion in  
residents' Council Tax  
letter

**Newsletter from Kents Hill and Monkston  
Parish Council**

Serving the grid squares of Kents Hill, Monkston,  
Monkston Park, Brinklow and Kingston

## **Precept planning 2011/12**

Each year the Parish Council is required to set its budget for the new financial year, which begins on 1st April and runs to 31st March of the following year. The 'precept' is the specific term for the budget requested by the Parish Council to be collected from residents in its parish, as part of the Council Tax payment. The precept is for local Parish use, to maintain local services and to support the local community.

This precept will meet the Parish Council's budgetary requirements for the forthcoming year, to meet the objectives set out by the Parish Council members. This newsletter is designed to indicate to you how the precept has been structured for the year 2011/12 and to demonstrate to you what is planned in the Parish.

The Parish Council has maintained a precept level of £20 per household per year since 2008. After three years of this standstill budget, the Parish Council has agreed a precept contribution of £22.50 per household (based on 3102 households in the Parish) for the year 2011/12 which equates to £1.88 per household per month.

The precept calculation is based on the number of band 'D' equivalent properties in the Parish. From the number of band 'D' equivalent homes, the net tax base is derived. For the year 2011/12 the tax base has been confirmed at 2628.

The Parish Council has agreed a total budget for 2011/12 of £87,998.20. This budget will fund a broad range of locally-based Parish initiatives. This year's precept of £22.50 per household will provide £69,795.00 or 79% of the funds required planned local projects and services. The total precept equates to £26.56 per property based on Milton Keynes Council's net tax base of 2628 properties.

To meet the required budget for 2011/12, the Parish Council has resolved to contribute £18,203.20 or 21% of the budget from its reserves to the overall budget required for the next financial year. This will reduce the level of reserves to just under £12,000 at the end of 2011/12.

Please turn over for further budget details.

**Please log on to our website regularly for updated news,  
project and meeting information:**

**[www.kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk](http://www.kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk)**

## Parish Council budget 2011/12

After three years of standstill precept (2008-2011), the Parish Council has had to agree an increase in precept for 2011/12. This is not only to accommodate ever increasing costs, but also to fund a number of new initiatives in the community. The Parish Council acknowledges the continued financial pressure on household budgets, and believes that this level of precept offers very good value for money per household. We will continue to keep expenditure to reasonable levels, and we continue to do our best to optimise community value from the budget spend.

Our budgetary planning is divided into two areas:

- Base costs (parish management and service costs)
- Project costs (existing and new projects)

### Parish management and service costs

This section provides for the employment of a professional Parish Clerk, including salary, employer National Insurance and pension contributions, office costs, administration, and other operational costs including association memberships, insurance and auditor services. It also provides for maintaining current services such as the printing and distribution of the iNFACT newsletter, Councillor training, and website hosting costs.

### Project costs

This provides for supporting the set up and maintenance of our allotment sites, regular litter bin and dog bin emptying, autumn bulb and flower planting, community events, school holiday play sessions, play area improvements, support for school projects and Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) initiatives, a new parkland seat as well as grants for local organisations.

A range of new projects is planned for 2011/12 to include youth activities, a parish mapping service, contribution to storage facilities and the potential establishment of an office at the new Monkston Park community centre as well as repairs to park seats in the parish.

The planned budget is as follows:

	£	£
<b>Base costs</b>		
Staff salary	16,435	
HMRC contributions	4,108	
Pension contributions	729	
Office costs	276	
Mileage & telephone	1,066	
Administration	3,139	
Association memberships	1,050	
Insurance	1,045	
Auditor services	440	
Room hire	736	
Newsletter	9,318	
Precept letter	435	
Website costs	385	
Clerk training	300	
Councillor training	400	
Quality Council fees	275	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>40,137</b>
<b>Project costs</b>		
Allotments M. Park	1,500	
Allotments Kents Hill	1,360	
Allotments Monkston	4,480	
Allotment maintenance	500	
Bin emptying	6,792	
Bulb and flower planting	2,000	
Community events	2,500	
NAG support	1,000	
Play area improvement	4,000	
Play sessions	9,429	
School projects	500	
New parkland seat	700	
Grants	5,000	
Youth group	4,500	
Parish mapping	100	
Storage & office facilities	3,000	
Park seat repair	500	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>47,861</b>
<b>Total budget</b>		<b>87,998</b>

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