

Council Tax – Increase in Parish Council Precept for Eskdaleside-cum-Ugglebarnby Parish Council

As residents in the Parish will have seen from the recently issued annual Council Tax bills from North Yorkshire Council there has been an increase in the Parish council precept which forms part of the overall NYC Council Tax. As a Parish Council we felt it to be important to explain why we have had to apply this increase for the 2026-27 year.

Until the end of the 2025-26 financial year our funding was made up of two elements, the Parish Council precept, collected via the overall NYC Council Tax, and the Model Agreement Funding (MAF) which was provided to us as part of an agreement put in place between Scarborough Borough Council and relevant Parish Councils in the financial year 2011-12 and which has been paid ever since.

The Model Agreement funding is restricted to being used in certain areas of expenditure by the Parish Council. The headings for these areas are as follows:

Parks, Playing Fields and Open Spaces
Roadside Verges - Maintenance
Burial Grounds and Churchyards
Public Seats
Public and Bus Shelters
Public Clocks

The Model Agreement funding cannot be used for spending outside these designated heads.

The Model agreement funding for 2025-26 was £5175.54 which constituted some 24% of our overall funding. This payment has now been reduced by North Yorkshire Council to £1835.44 for the 2026-27 financial year and this remaining sum is currently under review and is likely to end completely this year.

As such we faced a significant shortfall in funding for 26-27 which would have meant that the works, services and funding that we provide in relation to the above areas could not have been delivered. Specifically, this would have impacted on verge and grass cutting, maintenance of the benches around the Parish, bus shelter maintenance and support for other activities undertaken within the Parish. Some of these activities include statutory duties that we are obligated to carry out so to continue to do so other areas of activity would have had to be abandoned in order to undertake these.

We have also had to make allowance for the impact of inflation on the services and activities that we procure.

We therefore took the decision that to maintain the services that we provide, we had no alternative to replace the MAF income with an increase in the Parish precept and it was only after substantial debate and review that we decided to do so. The increase to replace this funding equates to only less than £6 per Band D household.

We hope that this provides an explanation and reasons why we have had to take this step.