

Planning applications are considered by the Council's Planning Committee, whose meetings are open to the public. Councillors contributed to the development of Bath and North East Somerset Council neighbourhood planning protocol.

Income & Expenditure

The Town Council is required, each year, to give details to the local community of its proposed income and expenditure. The table on the next page shows the budgeted income and expenditure for 2012/13.

There is little change to the costs of central services and devolved services. Whilst the sum for ground services is unchanged there is a radical change to the services which will be provided with the termination of the agreement inherited under the Reorganisation Order. Contracts are being let that reflect the needs of the town.

Reference has already been made to the Council's community development ambitions. £50,000 has also been allocated under Devolved Services to support projects. These projects include: securing community buildings; tackling anti-social behaviour; collecting and preventing litter and celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The proposed budget gives a surplus of income over expenditure of £11,648 that will be added to reserves. This is an explicit decision to increase the level of reserves towards the level of three months expenditure recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. This will bring the level of reserves up to £53,804 – the target is £73,000.

If you have any questions on the precept please contact the town clerk on 01761 418701, by e-mail to townclerk@midsomernorton-tc.gov.uk or by post at The Town Hall, The Island, Midsomer Norton, Radstock BA3 2HQ

Expenditure	Budget 2012/13
Central Services - Council Office, Staff and Equipment, Professional Fees	£105,300
Democratic Process - Newsletter, Website, Training, etc	£15,700
Parks and Play Areas - Equipment Maintenance	£1,350
Allotments - Water and grounds maintenance	£450
Public Conveniences - Automated Toilets	£7,850
Ground Services - maintaining the town environment	£40,000
Memorials - Maintenance	£1,100
West Clewes Rec. Ground - Maintenance	£2,000
Devolved Services - Projects	£50,000
Community Support - Community development and grants	£66,000
Capital and Projects - Loans and capital provision	£34,096
Total Budget Expenditure	£323,846
Income	
Precept Received	£330,994
Interest Received	£200
Allotments Rent Receivable	£1,300
West Clewes Rec. Ground Rent	£3,000
Total Budget Income	£335,494
Transfer to Reserves	£11,648



Midsomer Norton Town Council 2012/13 Precept Explained

Midsomer Norton Town Council was formed in 2011 and following the election of eleven town councillors last May has been working hard to establish a policy framework and budget for the town. Broadly the Town Council has three main objectives:

- To develop a strong sense of community
- Encourage civic pride in our town
- Be a well run council that delivers results

The Council serves a population of approx 14,600 (about 5,000 households). The precept is a charge on every residential property in the area and is the Council's income for the year. However, the Council also receives income for facilities it provides such as allotments and from grants.

The 2012 Precept

2012/13 will be the first year when the full amount of the precept will be available to the Council. In 2011/12 £69,829 was re-allocated to Radstock Town Council and Westfield Parish Council to help them in the transition after the re-organisation of local government.

Access to the full amount due has enabled the Council to set a total budget without increasing the precept. Indeed with the discovery by Bath & North East Somerset Council that 99 properties on Charlton Road had been allocated wrongly to Westfield, as a Council we can now deliver a 2.6% reduction in our element of council tax. For a Band D tax payer the town council element will reduce from £88.46 to £86.16.

Community Development

The Council's vision is of an inclusive community where individuals will respect each other and contribute to the well-being of the whole town.

- The Council has already started several schemes:
- The launch of its community newsletter "Midsomer Norton Life".

- The development of a database of local clubs and societies, and the first of what is intended to be regular meetings with representatives of those clubs and societies.
- Working in partnership with community groups to organise and fund events including celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee, Olympics and Midsomer Norton Fayre Day.
- With partners and other organisations the Council is working to secure the future of key community buildings such as the Town Hall and maximise the community benefit from them. This will be a key part of its work in 2012/3.
- We have developed a new grants policy and associated fund with the theme for this year of providing support in the difficult economic climate and bringing together people promoting understanding, tolerance and responsibility.

Civic Pride

In order to ensure that Midsomer Norton is a town we can feel proud of, the Council has:

- Been contracting for three new services to cover horticultural planting, grass cutting and a town warden
- Developed a range of initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour ranging from litter picks to a Community Alcohol Partnership scheme
- Launched an Economic Development Partnership to focus on generating new employment opportunities as well as specifically regenerating the town centre.
- Planned the signing of a new Town Twinning charter with Ambarès et Lagrave near Bordeaux in France as well as exploring links with a province in China.

- The Town Council also administers or funds the following services and facilities from its office at Midsomer Norton Town Hall:
- Recreation ground at West Clewes (North Road)
- War memorials in the High Street
- Public conveniences at The Island (with Bath & North East Somerset Council)

- Bus shelters
- Public seats
- Litter and dog waste bins
- Allotments at Radstock Road

Being a well run Council

Council Meetings

Meetings of the Council are normally held on the first Monday evening of the month and meetings of the Planning Committee on the third Monday in the Town Hall, The Island, Midsomer Norton, starting at 7.00pm.

Public notice of meetings is given on the Council's notice board outside the Council Chamber at the Hollies. A schedule of the main meetings can also be obtained from the Town Council's Offices.

All Council Meetings are open to the public and press, however they may be temporarily excluded to allow discussion of establishment, property and finance matters because of their confidential nature. Members of the public are not permitted to take part in the meeting; however, there is a public session prior to the meeting when questions can be asked of the Council.

The agenda and related reports for meetings of the Town Council and its Committees can be viewed in full at the Town Council's Offices. Agendas and minutes are also available on the Council's website.

Each year the Town Council hosts a Town Meeting. This is when the local community is encouraged to attend and inform Town Councillors of their concerns and requests. The next Town Meeting will be held on Monday 14th May 2012 in the Town Hall Midsomer Norton commencing at 7.00pm.

Planning

We are consulted on all planning applications, local and strategic plans by Bath & North East Somerset Council. In addition the Town Council is consulted on proposals affecting the Midsomer Norton area by bodies such as Bath & North East Somerset Council, health service organisations or Government Departments.