**Goring Heath Parish Council**

**Precept- Council Tax 2018/19**

The current precept is £26,500, which increased from £16,500 to pay for the 143 Bus subsidy

In previous years, we have held the precept steady or reduced it, so it was £16,500 in 16/17, the same in 15/16 and £17,000 in 14/15

The current running level of expenditure is about £19,000 per annum, which includes a bus subsidy of £2,400 per annum. Without the bus subsidy, the annual spend would be £16,500, ie about the level of the precept in 15/16 and 16/17.

However, that does not allow for one off events, which in the past have included the purchase of Tinepits Pond, and the restoration of the War Memorial. The latter of course was funded by other means.

We have not made a decision about ending the bus subsidy.

The options are therefore

* To keep the Precept at its current level
* Reduce it modestly
* Reduce it more aggressively
* Take it right back to £16,500.

Politically, the message of a reduction is good news, and it does not really matter if the reduction is big or small. Once reduced, however, there is less scope for further reductions.

I would therefore recommend that it’s reduced modestly to £23,000, a reduction of 10%: a good number !

