

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

RESERVES 2020-21: STATUS AND PROSPECT

RESERVES: STATUS

1. APC has a reserve of money brought forward from previous years. The level should be sufficient to meet discretionary spend over which we have control (for example, EMF projects for which we have earmarked funds) and non-discretionary spend over which we have little or no control (we have to insure council property).
2. Our reserves also enable us to deal with fluctuations in cash flow, pay for any professional advice that might become necessary, and meet contingencies. National guidance suggests that our reserves should not exceed 100% of our precept.
3. The table below gives the evolution of our reserves and our precept since 2014. Figures to 2020 are actuals; an estimate is given for our reserves in 2021. This reflects the minimum level below which we ought not to drop.

YEAR	RESERVES ON 31 MARCH	PRECEPT FROM 31 MARCH	RESERVE EXPRESSED AS % OF PRECEPT
2014	16,635	10,900	153
2015	19,216	10,900	176
2016	19,174	11,000	174
2017	16,262	12,100	134
2018	19,861	12,100	164
2019	19,583	12,700	154
2020	23,114	13,787	168
2021	14,200	14,200	100 ¹

RESERVES: PROSPECT

4. By 31 March 2020, we expect our reserves to amount to just over about £23,000. We deliberately allowed them to build to this level because we knew that significant invoices from Wiltshire Council for 25% of the cost of Atkins' work on the West Kennett and Beckhampton road safety projects were imminent (as, indeed, they continue to be).
5. APC will follow national guidance by aiming to keep our reserves at 100% of the precept. This means that in 2021 not only can we continue to deliver projects that visibly benefit the community as a whole but also start new ones - a small but we hope welcome contribution to community life as we emerge cautiously from the pandemic.

¹ Figures rounded up/down.