

Torrige District Council has discovered that regrettably some of the council tax bills issued this week have included incorrectly calculated figures.

The problem has arisen as a result of the element stated to be payable to some parish councils being too high, and the percentage increase figures for parishes showing a larger increase than is actually the case. The amounts differ between different parishes but in the majority of cases, it means that some people have received annual bills which are £2.00 to £5.00 in total more for this year than in fact they should be.

Steps are being taken to re-issue the bills as soon as possible with the correct lower amounts.

Residents can continue to make payments in the normal way if they so choose and these will be held on account. Once the new bills have been issued, any future payments will be adjusted downwards so that the correct total amount is paid over the course of the year.

Residents also have the option of stopping their payments until the new bills are issued. Please let us know if you would like to do this by March 26th and call 01237 428900 or email council.tax@torridge.gov.uk to let us know; but bear in mind that the total annual amount will still need to be paid by March 31st 2014 and so future payments may be higher.

Residents living in the following parishes have no need to do anything as these bills are correct:

- ◆ Abbots Bickington
- ◆ Bradford and Cookbury
- ◆ Bulkworthy
- ◆ Clawton
- ◆ Dowland
- ◆ Hollacombe
- ◆ Huish
- ◆ Monkleigh
- ◆ Newton St Petrock
- ◆ Virginstow
- ◆ Lundy

Leader of the council Councillor Barry Parsons said, 'On behalf of Torrige District Council I would like to sincerely apologise for any confusion or concern that this may cause. I wish to re-assure the public that it the council is acting as quickly as possible to rectify the error.'

Head of Paid Service Jenny Wallace said, 'I will be ensuring there is a full internal investigation into how this happened but our immediate priority is to make sure the correct bills are issued.'