

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28 January 2013 at 6:40 pm at Mossy Lea Village Hall, prior to the commencement of the January Parish Council Meeting, the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr I McRae, Mr J Clinch, Mr F Johnson, and Mr P Gartside.

1. Apologies – There were no apologies.
2. Dispensations & Declarations of Interest – Following a written request from all Parish Councillors present it was RESOLVED: AS THE PROPER OFFICER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL THE CLERK GRANTED A DISPENSATION THEREBY ALLOWING ALL SERVING PARISH COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE PARISH PRECEPT TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND VOTE IN SETTING THE PRECEPT. THIS DISPENSATION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR 4 YEARS AND IS AS FOLLOWS: SUBJECT TO YOU DISCLOSING THE INTEREST AT THE MEETING, COUNCILLORS MAY ATTEND A MEETING AND VOTE ON A MATTER WHERE THEY HAVE A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST THAT RELATES TO THE FUNCTIONS OF WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF SETTING COUNCIL TAX OR A PRECEPT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1972. All Councillors present declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Precept discussions and Setting.
3. To discuss the Current Financial Years Expenses and Anticipated Expenses - The Council discussed in detail expenses paid to date and anticipated expenses for the remainder of the year, assessing the potential balance to be carried forward into the 2013/2014 financial year. It was confirmed that a cheque for £3500.00 will be handed to the Parish Council this evening from Mossy Lea Village Hall income. The Parish Council still intend to undertake repair or replacement work to the floor in the main hall at Appley Bridge Village Hall. A quotation for a new floor has been received, from a reputable local contractor who has undertaken a significant amount of work previously for the Parish Council, of £5727.00. The quotation is to remove the cupboards, remove the existing floor, supply and fix plywood and relay a French Oak (or similar) flooring, boxing in any pipes around the edges of the hall. It must be noted however that no guarantee will be given with this work if tap dancing continues on the new floor, similar problems will occur repeatedly on the new floor to those experienced at the moment therefore, it was stressed that an alternative surface must be used for tap dancing. The Parish Council will need to divide expenditure on this project between the current and the next financial years in order to undertake the work at this time. The Clerk explained that it may be possible to purchase the wood flooring and plywood in the current financial year and pay for the labour costs of the work involved in the 2013/14 financial year. The Parish Council RESOLVED: TO GO AHEAD WITH THE WORK TO THE FLOOR. THE CHAIRMAN, CLERK AND POSSIBLY THE CONTRACTOR WILL MEET WITH THE DANCING TEACHER TO EXPLAIN THE NECESSITY TO ACQUIRE/USE AN ALTERNATIVE SURFACE FOR TAP DANCING AND INSTRUCT THE CONTRACTOR TO GO AHEAD WITH THE WORK ONCE THE EXACT FLOORING HAS BEEN CHOSEN AT THE FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.
4. To discuss projects and anticipated income and expenditure for the next Financial Year + Review Clerk's Salary - It was reported that the Concurrent Contributions from West Lancashire Borough Council will be reduced by 15% this year (and a further 15% next year) providing a reduced income of £4021.00 (minus £700.00) in 2013/14. It was also reported that the contribution towards Amenity Grass Cutting in the Parish from LCC will be reduced by 30% to approx. £238.37 (minus £102.00). Despite attempts by Councillors, no discussion took place on the Clerk's Salary as the Clerk stated that, due to the current economic climate she would again not be expecting any increase in salary for the 2013/2014 financial year. Salary to be reviewed at the next Budget Meeting for the 2014/15 financial year. Work on increasing the income potential of both Mossy Lea Village and Appley Bridge Village Halls will continue either by advertising or raising the profile via the website or by word of mouth. It was suggested that the Annual Newsletter could be a possible source of income via advertising. A sum may be budgeted towards a Capital Bid project submitted to West Lancs. BC for improvements to radiators in the main hall at Appley Bridge Village Hall, total project cost to be determined by the due date. The Council must also take account of the labour costs of fitting the new floor in Appley Bridge Village Hall, payment for which will be made in the 2013/14 financial year.

5. To confirm the Parish Precept for 2013/2014 – Taking account of notification of protocol when participating in discussions when setting the precept, dispensations for which have been granted and, Info. on Precepts and Council Tax Calculations - the Clerk explained in detail the new Council Tax calculations and the effect on the Parish Precept. It was explained that due to the reduction in Council Tax Income generated by the amended calculations West Lancs. BC will be passing on to Parish Councils the central government grant received by them to cover the shortfall in income. The grant available to Wrightington Parish Council will be £498.00. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Parish Council to determine the Parish Income Requirement for the 2013/14 financial year, the grant from the Borough Council will then be deducted and the Parish Precept will be the resultant figure. RESOLVED: FOLLOWING THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, TAKING ACCOUNT OF PROJECTS THE PARISH COUNCIL WISH TO COMPLETE IN THE 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR, ALLOWING FOR THE REDUCTION IN PARISH COUNCIL INCOME AS A RESULT OF REDUCED CONCURRENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND AMENITY GRASS CUTTING FUNDING AND, COMPARING PRECEPTS FOR OTHER PARISHES IN THE BOROUGH. TAKING ACCOUNT OF ALL FACTORS AND ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ANY POTENTIAL INCREASE IN THE PRECEPT ON HOUSEHOLDERS IN WRIGHTINGTON, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PARISH INCOME REQUIREMENT BE INCREASED TO £10,000.00 FOR 2013/14 – MINUS THE GRANT OF £498.00 – THEREFORE, A PARISH PRECEPT OF £9502.00 WILL BE REQUESTED FROM WEST LANCS. BC FOR THE 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR.