

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17 February 2014 at 9:45 pm at Mossy Lea Village Hall, following the February Parish Council Meeting, the following were present:

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

1. Apologies – Were received and accepted from Councillor Mr I McRae.
2. 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 2014/2015 financial year. It was confirmed that a cheque for £2000.00 will shortly be transferred to the Parish Council from Mossy Lea Village Hall income making the projected balance carried forward more acceptable.
3. 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 again this year by a further 15%, providing a reduced income of £3311.00 (minus £700.00) in 2014/15. It was also reported that the contribution towards Amenity Grass Cutting in the Parish from LCC could be reduced if LCC have to make further budget cuts. The Parish Council need to take account of projects which are currently the subject of bids ie: a new Notice Board at Mossy Lea Village Hall, requiring a Parish Council contribution of £700 and new Kitchen Units at Mossy Lea Village Hall, requiring a Parish Council contribution of £1000. The Parish Council may also incur additional expenditure on planters and planting in Appley Bridge if they choose to become involved with Appley Bridge in Bloom. The Clerk's Salary was reviewed as agreed at last year's Budget Meeting for the 2014/15 financial year. There has been no increase in the hourly rate for the past 4 years. Following discussions it was **Resolved: That the Clerk's salary be increased to £11.50 per hour, 12.5 hours per week, £7475 per annum, with effect from 1 April 2014.** Work on increasing the income potential of both Mossy Lea and Appley Bridge Village Halls will continue either by advertising or raising the profile. It was noted that, if all the projects go ahead as planned and income from both village halls remains at the current level, Parish Council balances carried forward to the 2015/16 financial year are likely to remain low. Councillors then discussed the need to contract with a new cleaner/caretaker at Mossy Lea Village Hall. Councillor Johnson believes the Parish Council should follow the example given by West Lancs. BC and pay 'living wage' which is assessed as £7.65. The Parish Council agreed to consider this, as it is more than the current contracted rate paid. The Clerk has informed the cleaner that the contract will be changing and that her contract will cease with effect from 28 February 2014, due to her poor health and the aforementioned changes which will now include small maintenance jobs such as changing light bulbs, touching up paintwork and changing tap washers. This will be discussed in more detail at the March Meeting.
4. To confirm the Parish Precept for 2013/2014 – It was confirmed 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 £714.00. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Parish Council to determine the Parish Income Requirement for the 2014/15 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 2014/15 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 requirements be increased to £12,000.00 for 2014/15 – Minus the Grant of £714.00 - therefore, a Parish Precept of £11,286.00 will be requested from West Lancs. BC for the 2014/15 financial year.**

Meeting Closed: 9:40 pm

Chairman:

Date: