

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 February 2015 at 7:00 pm at Appley Bridge Village Hall, prior to the February Parish Council Meeting, the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs J Burton, Mr G Horrobin, Mr F Johnson, Mr J Clinch, Mr P Gartside.

1. Apologies – No apologies were received.
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 2015/2016 financial year. It was confirmed that a cheque from Mossy Lea Village Hall income is on the Parish Council Agenda this evening, making the projected balance carried forward more acceptable. Councillor Johnson reported that he has compared Precept figures, and accounting reserves, from other Parishes to those in Wrightington. It appears that some Parishes build up reserves for specific projects and many of those with Reserve Accounts have larger Precepts and fewer electors than Wrightington eg: Hilldale residents pay twice as much in the Community Charge for the Parish Precept than Wrightington parishioners do. Councillor Mrs Burton confirmed that she did not agree with putting the Precept up. It was stressed however that, unlike other Parishes, Wrightington Parish Council has two village halls to run and maintain.
  - The Meeting was suspended at this point due to the large number of residents present who wished to take part in the Parish Council Meeting.

The Meeting was re-convened to allow full discussion of Parish Council finances prior to setting the Precept for 2015/16.

3. To discuss projects and anticipated income and expenditure for the next Financial Year + Review Clerk's Salary – The Clerk reminded Councillors that they must take account of the potential election costs for the forthcoming Parish Council elections in May 2015. The cost implications of an uncontested election will be approximately £250 whilst a contested election will cost the Parish Council approximately £1200. It was also suggested that the Parish Council should revisit the idea of extending Mossy Lea Village Hall by squaring the building off and producing a larger, more usable, hall. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that, due to other potential increased expenditure in the 2015/16 financial year, she did not expect any increase in her salary. It was proposed and seconded that last year's Precept be increased by the £1200 maximum elections fees and that a further 3% be added to this figure to allow for inflation on all utilities and other expenditure.
4. To confirm the Parish Precept for 2015/2016 – Following detailed discussions it was **Resolved – On a majority vote, that the Parish Requirement for 2015/16 is £12,680 - £888 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £11,792.00 Parish Precept.** Following this decision, and comments made, the Clerk stressed that any views expressed at this point were too late and should have been given during discussions if Councillors felt so strongly and wished their views to be taken into account when the decision was made.

Discussions on this subject ceased and the Parish Council Meeting continued.

Chairman:

Date: