

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12 February 2018 at 6:00 pm at Mossy Lea Village Hall, prior to the February Parish Council Meeting, the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mr C House and Mr J Clinch.

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 2018/2019 financial year. The Clerk confirmed that the balance carried forward appears to be higher than in previous years but stressed that some of the balance carried forward (£5,703.65) is CIL money.
3. To discuss projects and anticipated income and expenditure for the next Financial Year + Review Clerk's Salary - The Clerk reminded Councillors that the CIL (Neighbourhood Portion) money, already received by the Parish Council, has to be used for specific purposes agreed by the Borough Council. The Parish Council agreed that the initial £227.72 CIL receipt has been allocated for marking out the car park at Appley Bridge Village Hall, and the additional receipts of £2234.31 and £3241.62 will be considered towards the possible extension of Mossy Lea Village Hall. The Clerk expressed concern that, if the Parish Council do not consider increasing the Precept, and expenses continue to increase, the anticipated balance carried forward in future years may not be enough to sustain the Parish Council. Councillor Johnson again 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. The Parish Council are aware that it will be necessary to source additional outside funding to extend Mossy Lea Village Hall, however, funding bids are more likely to be successful if the Parish Council can indicate a percentage contribution towards the overall costs from their funds. Councillor Johnson also reported that both existing 2 year contracts for electricity at the village halls expire in March 2018. The Parish Council agreed that, having made the necessary enquiries and obtained the best rates applicable, that Councillor Johnson confirms with E.on the new tariffs chosen at both village halls. Parish Councillors were also asked to consider changing the contractor who looks after the planters at the village halls as maintenance has been poor and planting irregular over the past year. This was agreed and will be discussed at Parish Council Meetings. Councillors also have to take account of the fact that it may be necessary for them to fund the whole of the repair bill for the fallen wall at Appley Bridge Village Hall, again this will be discussed in a Parish Council Meeting but should be taken into account when discussing the budget. The Clerk outlined the reductions in the Borough Council top up grant and concurrent contributions for this year and suggested that a minimum 5% increase to £16,800 on last year's Parish Requirement of £16,000 is required, to absorb the losses in both of these and to provide a small increase in the Precept to deal with the normal inflationary increases in the regular bill payments made by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will then have to continue to rely on the village hall bookings to supplement their income and allow them to proceed with any projects in the Parish. The Clerk confirmed to the Parish Council that she would not be looking for an increase in her hourly rate this year, however, in view of the forthcoming Data Protection Legislation which will become effective at the end of May 2018, and the impact this may have on her hours of work to both implement the changes and to maintain those changes, the Clerk asked the Parish Council if they would consider increasing her hours later in the year once the impact of the legislation has been assessed. The Parish Council agreed to review this matter in 4-6 months and amend the number of hours the Clerk is paid for as required.
4. To confirm the Parish Precept for 2018/2019 - Following detailed discussions it was **Resolved – That the Parish Requirement for 2018/19 is £16,800.00 - £613.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £16,187.00 Parish Precept. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will Precept for £16,187.00 for the financial year 2018/19.**

Chairman:

Date: