

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18 February 2019 at 6:45 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 F Johnson, Mrs K Jukes, Mrs R Critchley and Mr C House.

1. Apologies – No apologies were necessary.
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 2019/2020 financial year. The Clerk confirmed that some of the balance carried forward is CIL money and that the Parish Council has spent some of the CIL money carried over last year on work at Appley Bridge Village Hall in 2018/19.
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 £227.72 CIL remains allocated for marking out the car park at Appley Bridge Village Hall and that £1000 has been committed for the purchase and installation of picnic tables at Mossy Lea Village Hall play area. It was also reported that the remainder of the additional CIL receipts have been used recently to complete work to the windows and the fallen wall at Appley Bridge Village Hall. The Parish Council are aware that it will be necessary to source additional outside funding in the future to extend Mossy Lea Village Hall as it is unlikely that the Parish Council will be unable to accumulate enough CIL money to pay for the cost of an extension. 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. The Clerk reported that the Borough Council top up grant and concurrent contributions for this year would remain unchanged. However, the Parish Council must also take account of the forthcoming Parish Council election costs. If the election is uncontested this will cost approximately £355 but, if the election is contested then the potential costs are approximately £2500.00. The Clerk confirmed to the Parish Council that she had not received an increase in her hourly rate for 2 years. The Council discussed this matter and **Resolved – That the Clerk's hourly rate be increased by £1.25 per hour with effect from 1/4/19. Therefore, 12.5 hours per week at £15.25 per hour = £9,912.50 pa.** The Clerk expressed concern that, if the Parish Council do not consider increasing the Precept to cover such things as the election expenses or a contribution towards them, 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 who remain almost at the bottom of the scales. The Clerk reported that this was also pointed out by the Borough Council when last year's Precept request was submitted. It was agreed that the Parish Council will 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 in the future if they do not take account of the potential increases in expenditure.
4. To confirm the Parish Precept for 2019/2020 - Following detailed discussions it was proposed and seconded that the Precept should increase by £3000. An amendment was submitted that the increase should be £2500. Following a vote it was **Resolved – That the Parish Requirement for 2019/20 is £19,300.00 - £613.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £18,687.00 Parish Precept, an increase of £2500.00 on last year's Precept. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will Precept for £18,687.00 for the financial year 2019/20.**

Chairman:

Date: