

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th January 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Appley Bridge Village Hall, prior to the January Parish Council Meeting, the following were present:

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

1. **Apologies** – Were received from Councillors Shaw (isolating), Chambers (Covid), and Alexander (unwell)
2. **To discuss the Current Financial Years Income, Expenses and Anticipated Expenses** - The Clerk provided actual receipts and payments figures for 2020/21, predicted receipts and payments figures for 2021/22 and estimated receipts and payments figures for the 2022/23 financial years to enable the Parish Council to compare the figures and make informed decisions about the forthcoming Budget. The Council discussed in detail expenses paid to date in 2021/22 and anticipated expenses for the remainder of the year along with actual income received to date. This allowed Councillors to estimate the potential balance to be carried forward into the 2022/2023 financial year. The Clerk confirmed however that, £4,925.70 of the balance carried forward is CIL money which can only be spent in compliance with CIL regulations and not on the general day to day functions of the Parish Council.
3. **To discuss projects and anticipated income and expenditure for the next Financial Year + Review Clerk's Salary** - The Clerk reported that the Borough Council top up grant and concurrent contributions for 2022/23 will remain unchanged and will be same as this year's and last year's figures. Using previous years budgets and estimates the Clerk explained which estimated expenditure she had increased, by how much, and for what reasons. Councillors agreed that the figures quoted for the SPID's could reach £6000 including engineering and installation if they chose to purchase fixed ones or, for several SPID plates and the cost of installation if moveable SPID's are chosen. Therefore, it was agreed that a Capital Bid would be submitted for £4000 towards the £6000 cost of 2 x SPID's, one for each ward in the Parish. Councillors agreed that it had been a mistake not to increase the Clerk's Salary on an Annual Basis since 2019. The Clerk explained that any increase in Salary would mean that it would be compulsory for the Parish Council to put a Workplace Pension in Place. Councillors present accepted that this would need to be undertaken. The Clerk would then be responsible for administering the pension and pension contributions going forward as part of her job role. It was proposed by Councillor Hodgkinson that, in light of the increase in workload over the last few years and the increase in responsibility going forward, together with the fact that no increase in salary has been made since 2019, that the Clerk's Salary be increased to £11,000 p.a. The proposal was seconded and it was **Resolved - that the Clerk's Salary be increased to £11,000 p.a. with effect from April 2022.** It was noted that this will also result in an increase in costs to the Parish Council as pension contributions will need to be made by the Parish Council as the employer, this increase will be budgeted for. Councillor House suggested that the sum budgeted for Defibrillators be increased to £1000 as it is proving costly to source the consumables required and they need to be replaced at regular intervals. The following projects remain in place which the Parish Council would like to deliver in 2022/23: Marking the car park at Appley Bridge Village Hall to make the most of the space available. To install 2 picnic tables, the same as those installed at Mossy Lea play area by the Parish Council, at the playing fields at Appley Lane South. The estimated cost of this project includes possible installation costs if the Borough Council does not agree to install them as they did at Mossy Lea. Planting and maintenance costs at the village halls were discussed taking in to account the Quotation received from the current contractor for planting planters at both village halls, grounds maintenance and moss control at Appley Bridge Village Hall and moss control at Mossy Lea Village Hall. The quotation falls slightly below the figure estimated for planting and maintenance costs at both village halls but this will allow for possible unforeseen costs. For the purposes of explanation and calculation initially, the Clerk has used the same Precept figure in the budgets as last year to provide a starting point for this year's discussions. Examples were then provided of the impact of leaving the Precept unchanged and of increasing the Precept by £1000.00. If the Precept for 2022/23 remains the same as last year £18,687.00, then a Band D property will pay £15.72 per annum, an increase of £0.01p on last year's payment. If the Precept is increased by £1000.00 to £19,687.00 then

a Band D property will pay £16.55 per annum an increase of £0.84p on last year's payment. Having taken account of all of the above factors and discussed the budget in detail the Clerk reported that: if the Parish requirement for 2022/23 remains the same as last year (£19,300) this would result in a Precept of £18,687.00 and a 0.06% increase for a Band D property from last year (i.e. £0.01p). If the requirement is increased to £20,300 this would result in a Precept of £19,687.00 and a 5.35% increase for a Band D property from last year (i.e. £0.84p).

4. **To confirm the Parish Precept for 2022/2023** - Following detailed discussions and comparison of all the figures it was proposed and seconded that the Parish Requirement for 2022/23 is increased by £1000.00 to £20,300.00. Following a vote it was **Resolved** – **That the Parish Requirement for 2022/23 is £20,300.00 - £613.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £19,687.00 Parish Precept for 2022/23. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will request from West Lancashire Borough Council a Precept of £19,687.00 for the financial year 2022/23.**

Chairman:

Date: