

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 January 2012 at 7:00 pm at Appley Bridge Village Hall, prior to the commencement of the January Parish Council Meeting, the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs J Burton, Mr I McRae, Mr J Clinch, Mr F Johnson, Mrs D Hanlon and Mr D Page.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.
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 2012/2013 financial year. A sum of £500 towards the Capital Bid project submitted to West Lancs. BC for access/entrance improvements at Appley Bridge Village Hall, a total project cost of £1600.00, must also be included in the budget however, this expenditure could be incurred in the next financial year if the weather does not allow for this work to be completed in the current financial year. Repairs to the bus shelter at the junction of Chisnall Avenue and Mossy Lea Road, with the inclusion of a lockable notice board, at a cost of approx. £800 need to be included in anticipated expenditure for this year.
3. To discuss projects for the next Financial Year + Review Clerk's Salary: It was reported once again that the Concurrent Contributions from West Lancashire Borough Council will remain the same as those received for the 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and the 2011/2012 financial years, £4730.00. No discussion took place on the Clerk's Salary as the Clerk agreed that due to the current economic climate she would not be expecting any increase for the 2012/2013 financial year. Salary to be reviewed at the next Budget Meeting for the 2013/14 financial year. The Council also discussed the possible increased income for Mossy Lea Village Hall once the computer classes are up and running. It was suggested that a marketing plan could help to make the best use of Parish Council assets. Work on increasing the income potential of both Mossy Lea Village and Appley Bridge Village Halls will continue either by advertising or raising the profile via the website or word of mouth. Councillors Mr Page and Mrs Hanlon would be happy to help with the development of a Marketing Plan. It was also suggested that raising the overall profile of the Parish Council and the work they undertake in the Parish would be beneficial. It was suggested that the Annual Newsletter could be distributed electronically on request and available on the website with hardcopies available in the village halls and on request. This would reduce printing costs. The Clerk reported however, that the Councils Annual Report should really go to each household in the Parish but will confirm whether this is mandatory or discretionary. Councillor Page suggested that work on the war memorial at Appley Bridge could be a good project. It was explained that this is owned by the British Legion who would need to be approached. Newly elected Councillors enquired why there was a need for a Community Centre and a Village Hall in Appley Bridge as this duplicity of facility means there is no 'village centre'. The history of this situation was explained at which point Councillor Page declared an interest due to the connection between his immediate neighbour and mainsprint. It was suggested that a leaflet be produced if the objections to the wind turbines in Mossy Lea prove successful, thanking the residents for coming together to fight against the proposals. Discussions took place on the community issues, needs and ideas in the Parish Plan. With the current trend towards the Localism Bill there may still be some items of the Parish Plan which could be implemented. It was suggested that discussions take place at the February Parish Council Meeting with a view to arranging some open meetings to discuss Parish Matters in more detail. It would be interesting to know how other Parishes spend their money.
4. To confirm acceptance of the Parish Precept for 2012/2013: The general feeling of the meeting was that the Precept should be increased at least by inflation (approx. 5%). It was felt the initial suggestion proposing an increase of 10% could not go ahead. An increase of 5% was proposed and seconded however, an amendment of, inflation + 2.5% (totalling 7.5% - to increase the contingency to assist with marketing and plans for the future of Parish assets) was proposed and seconded. Following detailed discussions and comparisons of 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, voting on the amendment first followed by the proposal, the majority

vote of the Parish Council RESOLVED: To requested a Precept of £7,095.00, an increase of £495.00 (7.5%) on last years Precept, from West Lancashire Borough Council for the financial year 2012/2013

Meeting Closed: 7:45 pm.

Chairman:

Date: