

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019, UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr P Hemmerdinger welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with an annual report from the Parish Council:

Precept – to be £19,000, this is now made up of £18531 Precept and £469.00 Government grant, which includes a Band D Parish Council tax of £35.77 per household, this grant is being reduced by the Government each year until it ceases.

To explain:- **Precept** = the amount raised by Council Tax;

Council Tax (Band D) = the Council Tax per band D property (all property precept valuations are based on Band D - mid range).

Total Budget Requirement = Grant + Precept

Various 'street scene' improvements and repairs carried out, stiles mended, trees and hedges cut back, Parish notice boards have been totally refurbished and a new picnic bench has been installed in the play area (the old picnic bench was vandalised). Two new village benches have also been installed.

The Parish Council has bought a defibrillator which has been placed in the old phone box on Top Street – the Parish Council had to have the phone box (which is listed) completely refurbished and new signage installed.

Street lighting repair costs amounted to £75.60 (the street lights we have to pay for are for Appleby Parva).

The Allotment Society is working well, with many improvements being made to the site and an orchard in the making. Section 106 money was applied for and granted – this has provided a new storage container for the allotment site, and further items are being applied for.

Work to the recreation ground, such as ditches being unblocked, trees cut back etc has been carried out; the PC is supporting grant applications for a new sports pavilion, and has received Section 106 funding to assist the funds raised. We are looking to improve the access road into the recreation ground – if funds allow this.

Crime figures in the village have increased in the village this year.

The Parish Council is looking to have a 3D village sign installed, and further signage in the Parish is planned to help reduce dog fouling and vehicle speeding.

We placed lamp post poppies around the Parish to commemorate those who fought in WW1 and WW2 and other conflicts – and also 'secret soldiers' were placed in the Church.

Various planning applications have been considered.

Budget is looking healthy, but government cut backs and further control of the Precept will mean belts will have to be tightened.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the existing Councillors for their time and commitment, and to the Clerk and volunteers.