

FUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019 No.361

THE PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT – The Parish Council at its December meeting resolved that its Precept for the financial year 2019/2020 should be £22,000.00. This represents an increase of £2,000.00 on the previous year's precept which the Council had managed to retain at £20,000.00 for the last 3 years, mainly because provision had been made in anticipation of the expected servicing of the proposed loan to enable a grant to be made for the provision of a new Village Hall, which of course did not proceed, and the reduced administrative expenditure which resulted from the inability to appoint a permanent replacement of a Clerk for a total period of some 15 months following the death of the previous Clerk, Barry Mann, during which time the secretarial/financial work was carried out by Councillor La Hive and the Chairman. Although the Council felt obliged to increase the precept, it is still one of the lowest in the District and expenditure has been maintained by extensive use of grant aid which has been obtained for much of the Council's expenditure programme. The Council's healthy financial position has therefore been maintained and the present Council hopes to be able to pass it on in that state to its successor in May 2019 following the next election.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARD – The Parish Council has received numerous complaints about the lack of a noticeboard in Funtington since the collapse of the wooden one earlier this year. We have looked at a number of proposals and have decided to replace it with an aluminium noticeboard which we hope will be more durable. The replacement has been ordered and is expected in January.

SPEED INDICATION DEVICE – The supports for the new speed indication device have now been erected in West Ashling, East Ashling and West Stoke. There is sufficient street furniture in Funtington for the device to be erected without further posts being required. Deployment is being carried out by the East Ashling Association on behalf of the Parish Council and will commence shortly.

PARISH CONSULTATION – We were very pleased that there was a good response to the questionnaire which was sent to all residents in the Parish. The replies will enable the Parish Council to decide whether we should embark on the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for the Parish or an update of the Parish Plan which was last produced in 2011. A neighbourhood plan is a statutory document, usually prepared by a parish council in close consultation with the local residents, dealing with the use and development of land and, as such, should reflect the proposals of the District Council's local plan. It is supposed to be very persuasive so far as local development is concerned, although a number of local parishes who have prepared plans, in some cases at considerable expense, have found them disregarded by both the local planning authorities and at appeal. The alternative is a parish plan or village design statement, which might deal with matters other than land use, which is non statutory and less persuasive than a neighbourhood plan.

The Next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 commencing at 6.30pm at the Funtington and District Village Hall, Southbrook Road, West Ashling. We wish you a very happy New Year and look forward to seeing you.

GK. 09.12.2018