



WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS FINANCE REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022

Every year the budget and Precept is required to be set by the Parish Council, a meeting is typically held each October to establish what the new year's budget will look like. Each year the council meet to discuss its projects and priorities and work towards providing on going services to the public.

Throughout 2021/22 the precept was set just over £500,000 which was only a 4.36% year on year increase from the year before. The parish council have been able to keep the precept percentage below 5% for some years now which is positive.

Unfortunately, due to the previous limitations and struggles with the Covid 19 pandemic, the parish council were unable to recruit new staff members which were originally budgeted for, particularly staff which were needed in the Grounds Team. This meant that the reserves balance was healthy at year end meaning £10,000 was used to offset a higher increase moving into 2022/2023.

We are now pleased to be moving forward into the new financial year (2022/2023) and the precept increase has remained low at an increase of 4.20%. This equates to a £163.83 per year payment for a Band D household meaning only £3.15 per week.

These funds are allocated to the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the village of Wroughton, the parish council maintain a wide range of services including:

- sports pitches
- pavilions
- play areas
- a BMX track
- public toilets
- large open spaces
- bin emptying
- Allotments

As well as the above functions we also provide grants to local charitable trusts and community groups and enable community events such as the Christmas Switch on, Remembrance Service and this year the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Over the last 12 months we have been successful in receiving grant awards of £8,222 from Voluntary Action Swindon in relation to the work completed over the Covid 19 Pandemic and a further £3,000 from the National Lottery Fund to support his years Jubilee Picnic in the Park event.

The Parish Council are grateful for the sponsorship provided over the last few years from Richard James and Bellway Homes which have paid towards to the Christmas light switch on event.

The parish council are due to receive S106 funds from Swindon Borough Council later in the year which relate to the new Grange (Berkeley Farm) Development. These funds do have limitations and will need to

spent on recreational pitches at Maunsell Way and the Moat Pond area, something that will be discussed further at respective committees.

In the very near future I will be working with the councilors to investigate the future staffing model for the Wroughton Community Library, the running's of the new proposed community facility in Wichesltowe and also how the funding for the new Maunsell Way Pavilion will look throughout the next financial year.

As mentioned previously by the Chair our Grounds Team have had to relocate premises and we are now actively working towards improving the working conditions at Maunsell Way. The Parish Council have budgeted £25,000 in this current financial year to help provide a more permanent base however it's likely that this will be increased again next year if no solution is found.