

1. FY2020-21 Budget

The initial draft budget for FY 2020/21 was presented at the last PC meeting for review over the month.

Input received has been incorporated and the revised draft budget has been circulated for agreement at the next meeting.

The key issues are:

- Loss of the Street Cleaning grant, providing a shortfall of £2,034.
- Maintenance of The Tynning hedge (possibly c.£1,500)
- Communications –bulletin sponsorship reduction, web site renewal
- Cemetery maintenance – Headstones, monuments, trees and vegetation (c.£2,000)
- Lighting costs

The communications are an agenda item.

The lighting budget has included some £1,400 for supply since I have been chair, but no invoices have been received from SSE. Martin Walker has been requested to take this up with SSE so that we have a clear understanding of annual costs of lighting. This amount is being included in the budget until confirmation is received one-way or another.

An amount is included in the budget for the web site renewal, and it is expected to obtain the remainder of the costs via grants.

There are several reasons for the need to renew the web site, including bringing it up to date and also making sure that it conforms to the legal requirements of modern public sector web sites meeting all accessibility requirements, which will mean full support for the visually impaired through support for screen readers.

2. Precept

The loss of the Street Sweeper scheme provides a shortfall in income of £2,034.

The implication is that the precept will need to increase to cover this amount.

The new 5-year Asset Maintenance plan is now defined, and has been 'levelled out' across the 5 years, as best it can.

The current position with the draft budget is that an amount of the Street Sweeper scheme can be absorbed within the budget.

The PC reserves are not as high as they used to be, therefore the PC needs to be mindful of the potential need to address high cost unforeseen circumstances.

A spreadsheet outlining the options with the precept will be discussed at the PC meeting to agree the budget and any potential increase in the precept.

3. CIL Report

There is a statutory requirement for a statement to be published on the PC web site.

This has been done, and also the reporting on the previous has been amended to provide the same information in the same way.

4. School Parking

Just before Christmas the school held a carol service, which was attended by parents.

The PC received complaints from residents that significant issues arose out of inconsiderate parking. Apparent 3 buses could not get through Freshford and some residents were unable to pass through a couple of areas where parents had parked.

It was fortunate that no emergency vehicles needed access at that time.

To be fair, this impact is from an event taking place in the village that draws many from outside the village and Freshford is not blessed with good parking facilities. This situation does arise more for the school than other events – but it does arise for other events as well, such as the fireworks display.

A course of action has been agreed with the school to attempt to avoid similar problems arising in the future.

In short, the police (PCSOs) will be requested to assist by reminding those parking badly that they are causing an obstruction and need to find somewhere else to park.

The PC will provide the school with a letter advising of the need for this course of action, enabling the school to put out communications and the PC will work with the school in liaising with the police.