

COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Clerk Caron Ballantyne

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Or visit in person in the library on Mondays 2-5 (during Library Opening Hours)

Hi, Tim Musson here again. It is this time of year that as councillors we all dread. It is the annual setting of the budget and parish precept. The meeting is usually a long one and there is a lot of headaches involved trying to get the budgets to balance. I would like to thank the 3 members of the public that stayed to watch our debates on this matter. In the current climate we are faced with increasing costs for the things that as a parish council we pay for such as grounds maintenance, health and safety inspections of the park equipment. Add in to that when a previous councillor resigned and enough signatures were obtain to trigger an election at a cost of an additional £5100. All of this is paid for out of the parish council precept which comes from the council tax. I have heard some ask about the money that Collingham Parish Council received for the village centre, this is classed as Capital and can only be used on infrastructure projects such as village signs, buildings and physical objects.

With all this in mind and to prevent Collingham Parish Council running at a deficit in 2018-19 at the meeting on January 26th we took the decision to increase the parish council precept by approximately £1 per property per month based on an average of a band D property. Whilst I know any cost increase is unpopular this is unavoidable and I would like to compare Collingham's total precept with a couple of other parishes based on the 2016-17 year.

- Sutton on Trent: £21,960.00
- Collingham: £25,189.15
- Walesby: £35,000
- Farnsfield: £62,430.00

It is only by increasing the precept that Collingham can continue to be the amazing village that we all love with the community facilities that are used by all. I'd like to close by calling out a few things that the parish council have been involved in during the last year. Approved a grant to Collingham Tennis club, refurbishment of the jubilee rooms for Collingham History Society, new notice boards. If any of you would like to see the accounts or indeed talk through the projections for the 2017/18 financial year then please don't hesitate to contact me or the Parish Clerk. Plus I urge you to come along to future meetings and listen in to the discussions, there is always 15 minutes at the beginning of every parish council meeting for members of the public to speak.

Tim Musson

Collingham Parish Council meets on the fourth Thursday of every month and the second Thursday in December. The meeting in August may be cancelled if there is insufficient business. The meetings are held at the Youth and Community Centre on Low Street, except June which is at the Chapel in Brough and begin at 7:15pm. The general public are welcome at all meetings, though they have no rights to participate except at the beginning of the meeting or at the Chairman's discretion and with prior notice to the clerk. Once the meeting is under way the public are welcome and encouraged to stay and listen to the Council. There may be times because of the sensitive nature of the business being discussed that the public and the press are asked to leave though this happens very rarely.