

# 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)**

Hello All, Tim Musson here for this month's parish council article.

I will start off by talking about the annual precept. As you all know this is the money that comes from all of our council taxes to support local services. An element of that is for the parish council. As all councils, we try to keep costs at an absolute minimum, but these costs rise for councils as well as all of us every year. Therefore, it is necessary to increase that part of the precept that comes to the parish council in order to keep up with these increases in expenses. We have therefore determined that this year the addition for Collingham parish council will be 1.5% which equates to less than four pence per month for each band D property. This goes to pay for the facilities and services we have all come to expect from living in this community such as the play park, grants to community groups and the things we perhaps forget about such as the dog waste bins.

Following on from this I would like to remind you all that local elections will be coming up in May and I would encourage any of those of you with an interest in the local community to stand for the parish council. I myself feel I have got a lot from it in my 5 years of being a parish councillor and it is something that I feel means I'm putting something back into this community which has made me feel a part of it. If you are interested, please get in contact with the parish clerk either by email or go and see her in the library on a Monday afternoon. Alternatively speak to any parish councillor about their experience.

Finally, I will sign off with a couple of notices:

Anyone wishing to receive first aid training please let the clerk know as there maybe the possibility of some free training that can be organised if a group can be got together.

There will be the annual parish meeting on the 11th of April in the youth and community centre at 7pm. Refreshments will be available and local groups will be asked to provide updates on the work they have been doing in the last year. If you are a group wishing to speak then please get in contact to be added to the agenda.

*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 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.*