

Clerks Report April 2017

Action Points Following the March meeting:

Electronic Planning

The following response has been received from the Planning Department:

I do appreciate that there are some downsides with electronic communication and that this may not be everyone's preferred approach, but it is no longer sustainable for us to provide paper copies of applications to consultees. Our "technical" consultees have been working this way for some time now and it does have a number of advantages from their perspective as well as ours. If your Councillors do want to look at two documents at the same time, then plugging a second free-standing screen into the computer or laptop would enable them to do that.

If there are any practical issues which either I or my colleagues may be able to assist with whilst the new system is "bedding in" after 1st April, then please let me know and I'll see if there is anything that we might be able to do to make the electronic consultation process easier to use.

They would be happy to attend a meeting:

to come and discuss consultation arrangements and/or planning matters in general with the Parish Council. Monday or Thursday evenings are probably generally easier for me if possible, but if not then it ought to be possible to work something out for either a Wednesday or Tuesday (in that order of preference). The following evenings are definitely not available :

Tuesday 9 May
 Wednesday 24 May
 Wednesday 31 May
 Thursday 1 June
 Tuesday 6 June

Let me know what might work from your perspective, but if you aren't able to suggest a date until your next meeting on 19 April, please bear in mind that I'll be away at that point and not back to confirm the arrangement until 2 May.

Precept

Richmondshire District Council has responded:

I set out below the calculations for 2016/17 & 2017/18:

- 2016/17 = Precept Required of £3,460 divided by the Council Tax Base of 95.55 = Band D charge of £36.21
- 2017/18 = Precept Required of £3,806 divided by the Council Tax Base of 100.09 = Band D charge of £38.03 (5% increase)

The increase is not determined only by the precept required – you have to take into consideration the Council Tax Base (equivalent number of chargeable Band D properties in the Parish). The increase in your precept required is partially offset by the increase in the Council Tax Base.

Planning

The Planning Department has arranged an extension to the closing date to the planning application:

17/00058/FULL

Full Planning Permission for Single Storey Rear Extension at Preston Mill Cottage, Preston under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire.

Additionally the agent has asked for the following to be forwarded:

the reason the applicants want to make the barn bigger is because they would like to live at the property all the time and not as a holiday cottage. The barn as it stands won't allow family to visit so has put them off living there full time.

Website

A people counter plugin to the website would cost £40.

Pest Control

The tenant at Preston Moor has also noted a general increase in rat numbers. They have since been baiting twice a week and now believe they are getting on top of the problem. They will continue to do all that they can.

Meetings Attended

TRANSPARENCY CODE AND ASSOCIATED GRANT FUNDING FOR SMALLER COUNCILS - **FREE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE SESSIONS**

A handout has been received and will be circulated to all Councillors.

YLCA have confirmed that funding will continue in 2017/18 with the application form being available later in April 2017.

Notices Received:

NHS

Media Release - New end of life care service for Hambleton and Richmondshire

Please see website

Notice of Joint Commissioning of Primary Care Committee meeting

Please see website

YLCA

2017 Governance and Accountability financial guide published

The Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG) has published a new version of Governance and Accountability which can be downloaded from this link: [new Governance and Accountability Guide](#). At its February meeting JPAG approved some modest amendments to the wording of the guide and while the content is not greatly changed, a minor error affecting parish meetings has been corrected and some of the explanations in Part 5 have been made clearer.

This new 2017 edition of the guide applies to the statutory reporting of the financial year 2017/18, however JPAG has authorised the early adoption of the guide for 2016/17 on a voluntary basis, with the decision whether to do so resting with individual councils.

A copy of the Guide can also be found on the YLCA and NALC websites.

LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW – ARTICLE IN THE NEXT EDITION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have asked us to circulate the survey below regarding the benefits of Neighbourhood Plans. Responses will be used to produce an article which will appear in the next edition of NALC's newsletter 'Local Council Review'. The survey consists of four questions and if you feel that you can help for this particular article your contribution would be very welcome.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TLZT9RL>

I would be grateful if you could answer the survey by 26 April 2017.

Parish Council Survey:

My name is Helena Unwin-Golding, I'm a Parish Councillor in [Worplesdon \(Surrey\)](#) and am also in the final year of an MSc in Social Research at Birkbeck University.

For my dissertation I have chosen to research Parish Councillors - specifically what motivates people to become Parish Councillors. This level of government is woefully understudied and therefore underrepresented in contemporary research. I am hoping to identify the main factors which inspire individuals to become Parish Councillors so as to identify any groups which may become underrepresented and how these groups might be encouraged to take part in future.

To this end I have put together a short survey of 15 questions which should not take more than 10 - 15 minutes to complete. All responses will be kept anonymous and will only be used as part of my dissertation research project.

The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/surveyparishcouncil>.

I hope to follow up this survey with face-to-face interviews so as to explore the question in more depth. If your Councillors would like to take part in an interview there is a question towards the end of the survey where they can leave their contact details. I will send out the final results of the survey to everyone who completes it.

The deadline for completing the survey is **Monday 1st May**. If you or your Councillors would like any further information about me or this research project please feel free to contact me - my mobile number is: [07961 716659](tel:07961716659).