

Clerks report September 2016

Action points following the August PC meeting

- **Sycamore tree response from Bolton Estate**
I have contacted the estate regarding whether or not they have been to inspect the Sycamore Tree in the village which is suffering from significant disease. As of yet I've not received a response.
- **Rabbit wire on southern boundary of cemetery fence**
I have called and spoken with Dave Robinson who has verbally confirmed he will organise the replacement, heavier gauge rabbit wire on the southern boundary fence of the cemetery at the previously agreed rate. The work will be completed by mid October. I will ensure I liaise with Cllr. Amsden as per the August minutes.
- **Stanney safety signs**
I have now organised the replacement safety signs as required and I hope to have the signs in situ, in the Stanney within the next week.
- **Transparency Code – Grant application**
Further to a request by the council, I have submitted an application to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) which has now been forwarded to the National Association Local Councils (NALC) who are currently assessing the application. I have applied for funding to go towards the costs incurred by the PC to adhere to the Digital Transparency Code for the current financial year. I will ensure everyone is informed of progress in due course.
- **Highways – water run off into the cemetery**
Amy Ellis has responded on behalf of Highways to my most recent email regarding the water run off from the highway, her response indicates that Highways are not of the understanding the water is only coming from the Highway, and maybe land water run off as well. A Highways Officer has confirmed that the gully across the highway will be cleaned.

PC Website

The PC website is now live and can be found here: <http://prestonunderscarpc.co.uk>. The website is a requirement of the new Digital Transparency Code. The PC is required to ensure all documents such as meeting agendas, approved minutes of the meetings, clerks reports and other financial documents are all available online. The website is solely for use of the council and possibly the village hall committee. I am perfectly happy to load up copies of village announcements and newsletters as and when they are available, village documents will be available under the Community tab. If anyone experiences any problems or has any concerns about the website, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Parish Precepts 2016/17

The Department for Communities and Local Government have published Council tax statistics for town and parish councils in England: 2016/17.

The average Band D precept is £57.40, an increase of £3.28 (or 6.1%) on 2015/16; total precepts are now £445 million, £36 million more than in 2015/16 (£409 million); these figures illustrate quite powerfully how local councils are continuing to invest in local communities, with increases in many cases attributable to making up for a shortfall in council tax support funding, a general expansion of their role and use of powers, and in particular delivering new services, often taken on from principal councils.

Parishes are encouraged to inform local MPs about the use of the parish precept; explaining the reasons behind any increases and how the community will benefit as a result. The YLCA have expressed how they need to ensure that the Government is aware of this good work to avoid parish precepts being capped.

Would councillors like me to contact our MP explaining how, we may need to increase our precept application for next year to accommodate additional costs such as grass verge cutting?

Telecoms watchdog seeks rural volunteers

TELECOMS watchdog Ofcom wants rural people to tell it about the broadband challenges they face. Ofcom said it wanted to find out more about the "rural broadband experience" by encouraging rural people to join its research panel. Ofcom said it existed to make communications markets work for everyone. One of the ways it did so was by conducting research to find out about the customer experience across the UK.

Rural Spotlight on Young People email recvd. 26.07.16

Would any of the councillors be willing to perhaps inform Ofcom about our village broadband problems?