

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023, UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Emma Bird welcomes everyone to the meeting and opens the meeting with an annual report from the Parish Council:

Engagement

Members of the Council plan to issue another Parish questionnaire in 2023.

We produced a newsletter that was included in the Parish Newline magazine to keep all informed. We are looking at providing the newsletter twice a year.

Flooding

Flooding remains an issue in the Parish. The Parish Council purchased flood telemetry equipment and provided storage for general flood equipment around the village. The Parish Council continue to support the Appleby Magna Flood Group; who along with NWLDC have put a Parish Resilience Plan together. We would like to thank them for all their hard work; Severn Trent and Environment Agency in their ongoing support towards improving the flood issues affecting the village, and we thank them accordingly.

Financial

The budget is looking healthy, but government cut backs and further control of the Precept will mean expenditure will have to be carefully monitored.

Precept – to be £28,000, which includes a Band D Parish Council tax of £52.83 (not confirmed) per household. The Precept for 2023/24 remains the same as the previous year.

To explain:- **Precept** = the amount raised by Council Tax;

Council Tax (Band D) = the Council Tax per band D property (all property precept valuations are based on Band D - mid range).

Total Budget Requirement = Precept

Street lighting repair costs amounted to £125.00 which relates to the street lights we have to pay for in Appleby Parva.

Village Improvements

The Parish Council now has installed two poles for the new speed awareness sign. One on Rectory Lane and the other on Measham Road to allow for the sign to be moved. The sign has received praise and does seem to be slowing down drivers & we monitor the data and publish on the PC web site. We plan to install another speed sign along Top Street.

The planters in the village are continuing to be planted for each season. We are reviewing how and when these should be planted and also if and where new planters are required.

New fencing has been installed along the section of the recreation field near to the old Pavilion location/near the horse field at a cost of £7200.00.

We obtained another £5,000 towards outdoor gym equipment from Mercia Park Community Fund which we had installed on the rec ground – this has proved a great success.

The rec play area has regular inspections carried out by Rospa and we have to comply with all recommendations; we have spent over £2,000 carrying out repairs and replacements – and are having new swings fitted - £5,000 of the total costs kindly donated by Mercia Park Development.

We had a ‘recognition of CV19 impact’ recycled bench fitted in the play area – to replace the worn bench we had removed.

Various ‘street scene’ improvements and repairs have been carried out, stiles mended, kissing gates repaired, trees and hedges cut back. We have reported various footpath issues and are in the process of having ‘right of way’ signage re-installed.

Over 30 items concerning fly tipping, road and pathway problems have been reported to Highways to rectify.

Events through the year

Poppies were placed around the Parish for Remembrance Sunday, with the help of Sir John Moore School.

We held a celebratory Christmas tree light switch on event, with refreshments provided – the weather was poor and we are including this event in the Parish questionnaire to gauge how people feel about continuing this as an annual event.

Allotment Society

The Allotment Society is working well and continues to have a waiting list.

Appleby Sports & Rec

The Pavilion is being well used and the car park has been extended and improved.

Other

Various planning applications have been considered and commented on where necessary.

AMPC is still proactively represented, by the Clerk, at the Mercia Park (J11) liaison meetings however all funding has now been used so the meetings will cease.

AMPC website is continually being improved – thanks to Cllr. Sue Mitchell for all her hard work updating and maintaining the site

We continue to monitor the defibrillators and to ensure the pads and equipment are updated as required. We have arranged to have the Top Street defib phone box renovated.

We installed a shed and various containers for storing flood defence equipment.

Priorities for next year

The projects due to be completed include the installation of another Speed awareness sign, bulb planting and two permanent heritage boards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the existing Councillors, the Clerk and volunteers for their time, enthusiasm and commitment to the village.