



## Wolston Parish Council Newsletter 2017

This Newsletter is being delivered to every home in the Parish to let residents know about the work the Parish Council has done in the last 12 months and the Council Tax changes due in the coming year.

**Council Tax:** To be able to do anything for the village the Parish Council is, by law, able to ask Rugby Borough Council (RBC) to collect from Council Tax payers in the Parish an amount called the precept, which is shown on the annual Council Tax demand households receive in mid-March.

For the 2016 - 2017 financial year RBC paid the sum of £3462.09 as the amount of Government funded Council Tax Support Grant to help defray the cost of the precept requested by the Parish Council. For the 2017- 2018 financial year, RBC has decided to reduce this sum to £1610.56 and has suggested that the reduction in Council Tax Support Grant will continue, with it being completely removed within two years. The Parish Council is absorbing 50% of the reduction in the grant and has had to adjust its budget to do so. Despite this the Council Tax bill that you receive from RBC will show that the Wolston Parish Council component of the bill is going up by 1.2% for a Band D property, equivalent to £1.12 per year.

### **2017-2018 figures are –**

Band A- =£53.17; Band A = £63.81; Band B = £74.44; Band C = £85.08;  
Band D = £95.71; Band E = £116.98; Band F = £138.25; Band G = £159.52;  
Band H = £191.42

*...and here is where the money goes .....*

- 1. Recreation Ground** - During the 2016-17 financial year we installed a new adventure trail play area, specifically aimed at children aged 7+ up to teenagers, and purchased some outdoor gym equipment which can be used by adults. This equipment will be extended in the 2017-18 financial year, and include improvements to the toddler play area. Equipment has been well received and is being well used. We are aiming to put up additional CCTV cameras to cover the recreation ground and play areas for the purposes of crime prevention and detection, but also for reassurance - to make children and parents feel more safe and secure in there.
- 2. Pavilion** – we made alterations to the pavilion following a burglary last year. As well as increasing building security, the alarm system was replaced and extended, and all equipment was security marked by the Police.
- 3. Automated External Defibrillator** - A community defibrillator has been purchased for the centre of the village, and a training session will be organised for residents to attend once the defibrillator is installed. This is one item that the Parish Council has purchased which Councillors hope will never need to be used.
- 4. Youth Project** - when the County Council closed their Youth Club in the village we decided that our youngsters deserved better treatment. Since 2012, we have employed Youth Workers to provide two sessions a week at the Leisure and Community Centre. It is well attended by young people and provides a venue in which they can socialise safely and participate in fun activities.

5. **Wolston Leisure and Community Centre** – a Parish Council project to provide a community facility for the village. It is run by a Management Committee and supported with a discretionary grant. In addition the Council has put money towards sponsoring the monthly over-60s luncheon club, which is regularly attended by 50-60 people.
6. **Village Hall** - as custodial trustee we make a discretionary grant to support the running of the hall and last year also helped with the purchase of new mats for their indoor bowls club.
7. **Allotments Association** – we pay the rent to the agents of the Trust which owns the land on which the allotments stand. We then recoup the money from the Allotments Association who collect it from the Allotment holders. We also give them a discretionary grant.
8. **Financial support** is given to help with the purchase of the plants for the volunteers who give their time, skill and love to tend the Millstone flower beds, and War Memorial gardens. We are also very fortunate to have volunteers who maintain planters at the entrances to the village.
9. **Discretionary grants** are given to help with a number of Conservation and other projects in the village which help to enhance the village environment for the community.
10. **A donation** is made to the Royal British Legion annual Poppy appeal on behalf of the village for Remembrance Sunday.
11. **A Christmas tree** is installed and lit each year and we are grateful for the terrific support we receive with the switch-on ceremony. We like to help provide some refreshments for everyone who wants to attend.
12. **Using reserves** to match-fund a significant grant pursued on behalf of the Scouts allowed them to make urgent repairs and improvements to the Scout Hut.
13. **Grass cutting** – Councillors have committed to getting the grass cut twice a month during the season (between April and October) – rather than just the 7 times (or less) it would be cut if Rugby Borough Council took control. Annual brook clearance is also undertaken by contractors to improve the village environment and protect property.
14. **Neighbourhood Development Plan** – help to shape the future of the village. Giving local people a say in housing, infrastructure, economy, and environment. These plans have proven very successful in other Parishes, which is why we need one.
15. **Clerk and Lengthsman** – In addition to the Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer Wolston PC also employs a part time ‘Lengthsman’. His responsibilities include repairing potholes on pavements, pruning, grass cutting, cleaning street signs, minor painting, drain clearing and jetting, street furniture maintenance, checks to playground equipment and other work such as repairs to bollards, removal of debris from the brook and litter picking, weeding etc. - generally making the village look neat and tidy.
16. **Other expenses** that have to be met include repair, replacement of and electricity for street lights, CCTV, audit fees, village website, training for councillors and staff, insurance premiums, memberships and office rental and admin overheads.

For further information on the work of the Parish Council or this newsletter, or participation in our monthly meetings, to report issues (including vandalism, litter, damage, etc.), please contact Mrs Maria Meede (Clerk) in the PC office at the Baptist Church on most weekdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm, call her on 024 7654 5515, send an email to [clerk.wolstonpc@wolston.me.uk](mailto:clerk.wolstonpc@wolston.me.uk) or visit the village website [www.wolstonvillage.co.uk](http://www.wolstonvillage.co.uk)