

South Muskham and Little Carlton Parish Council

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Notice to all residents regarding the Precept for 2019/20

Your Parish Council is the first tier of local government and the democratic organisation that is closest to the community it serves. Responsible for representing the views of the community on subjects both locally and nationally, the Parish Council is funded through taxation – the precept – which is collected through your Council Tax.

The precept is used to cover the costs of administering council business. The Parish Council represents the views of the community over a range of subjects such as responding to planning applications, minerals plan consultations and an increasing number of other local and central government public consultations. The Council is also responsible for managing and maintaining a number of assets around the village including the community defibrillator, benches, notice boards and dog waste bins. Councillors give their time voluntarily employing a part-time Clerk as required by law who is responsible for administering council matters, including all financial matters.

Over the last two years the Council has worked to put together a Parish Emergency Plan to provide a guideline for responding to any major event that may affect the two villages. Part of the plan has seen all councillors along with other residents go through Flood Warden and Road Closure training to ensure our parish is ready to respond to any event and give whatever support that may be required to the emergency services. This year an emergency generator was installed to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply to the village hall in the event of an emergency. The funding for this was provided by the Notts County Council LIS Fund and the Council will cover any and all ongoing cost.

The Council is happy to continue with its support of the Village Hall in South Muskham and commends the members of the committee for all their work and commitment. January saw the launch of a parish website which will be managed and administered by the Council and is seen as another way to share information and the activities of not just the Council but the whole community.

Plans for the coming year include purchasing a second defibrillator to be located in Little Carlton and undertaking some required drainage work at Beckitt Field as a safeguard against possible flooding.

In line with government policy to consult more at local levels and in order to be more effective in the way it serves the village, the Council has decided to meet monthly for a trial period between January and the end of April. If this is found to be a more effective way of serving the village, then going forward the Council will meet monthly except for August and December. It is hoped that moving to more frequent meetings will not only make the Council more effective and efficient but will also provide more opportunities for residents to raise any issues or concerns directly with the council.

Despite small increases in the precept over the last three years increased meeting costs, rising overheads such as insurance premiums and contracts with the district council meant that the current levels of funding could not be sustained.

At the January meeting the Parish Council took the difficult decision to increase the precept portion of your Council Tax. This means from April 2019 the element of your Council Tax that will be passed over to South Muskham & Little Carlton Parish Council will be £58.41 (based on a Band D Property). This represents an annual increase on the previous year of £7.09 or around 13p per week.

Whilst it regrets having to request a higher level of precept and thus increase your Council Tax, the council members feel an increase was unavoidable and wanted to take the opportunity to explain why this is and hopes that the above goes some way to doing this.

Council meetings are open to all residents and you are encouraged to come along to hear and see your Parish Council at work. Meeting dates for the coming year, meeting minutes and agenda are posted on the parish website which can be found at www.smlcpc.org

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th February at the village hall in South Muskham commencing at 7.30pm.