Clerks Report

Oct 16

1. Capping – The Local Government Financial Settlement document is currently proposing to extend capping to more Parish Councils as follows:

“that referendum principles are introduced for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000, while taking account of transfers of responsibilities, and that consideration is given to the extension of referendums to all local precepting authorities.”

This would result in “allowed increases of less than 2% or up to and including £5, whichever is higher”

There is currently a consultation and Parishes are encouraged to comment on how they feel capping will affect their Parish.

1. Severn Trent Water

Clerk has spoken to a member of the Sewers team who has outlined the following:

At Back Lane/Prince Avenue the pipe is 9 inches, this then flows into a 6 inch pipe along approx. route of Grassy Lane, it combines with another 6 inch pipe which takes the waste from approx. 100 house along Rectory Lane and Beech Lane.

At the pumping station this become 9 inch pipe, it then crosses Brazenhill Lane and follows it out of the village using 2 pipes – one a 9 inch gravity fed and a 6 inch pressurised.

Severn Trent Water model using a 1 in 40 year flood history. There is no consent to discharge into the ditch on Grassy Lane by the Environment Agency.

If they cause pollution by flooding they are liable to fines from the environment agency.

1. Speedwatch meeting Nov 2nd, 8pm – this will be attended by Mark Winnington, Mark Keeling and Michelle (speedwatch co-ordinator). Equipment price has reduced dramatically from £1000 to approx. £370 for a speedgun and 2 signs
2. SRBS letter – signed to remove P Rowley from Stafford Railway Building Society Account. Clerk has now been added to allow transfer of funds between accounts.
3. Purchase of a small heater for the office in the Village Hall – Councillors confirmed purchase of heater – approx. value £75.
4. Councillors agreed £750 donation to Village Hall as per budget
5. JWH Grass cutting – confirmation required ref number of cuts for each year for budget 2017/18.
6. Collaboration meeting – held Thurs 20th October – attended by Cllr Allen, Cllr Sunley and the Clerk. Staffordshire County Council attended (Mark Winnington, Mark Deaville and Mary-Ann), there was an open discussion about potholes, Neighbourhood team, roads with commuter traffic. There was also a discussion about the legalities of Parish Councils carrying out Highways works and it was clear that this required more consideration. Next meeting to be held 19th January 2017.

Correspondence

1. Stafford Borough Council Members Digest
2. SPCA Weekly Bulletins – forwarded to all
3. Response from Walton Homes on clearing of the area along Grassy Lane.

Holiday

To remind Councillors that I will not be working this week due to half term