

BUSHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk & RFO Vicky Fowkes – Report to Annual Open Parish Meeting 22.05.19

Precept.

The Precept from Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC), is paid to the Parish Council in two instalments in May and September each year, following the authorised request in January of the year. Councillors scrutinise the budget at each meeting and identify the precept request at the January meeting. The precept, in 2018-19: £6924, supported the Parish Council to meet its spending requirements for the year. The largest proportion of Bushley PC spend is between the Clerk's remuneration and the Churchyard mowing contract. Bushley does not own any land or buildings of consequence. However, our assets, dotted around the village, are important to the village and valued at approx. £5000 for insurance purposes

The Clerk has several areas of work on an ongoing basis including progressing projects including the LBP Broadband project; following up and monitoring information relating to roadworks and planning; attending training and information sessions relating to local and national related issues, usually held in Worcester. Office duties include monitoring the budget, payment of invoices, collation of Lengthsman invoices to WCC with work details, following up requests, queries and potential initiatives; circulating information to councillors, occasionally collating responses and liaising with other clerks and Worcestershire CALC (County Association of Local Councils).

Lloyds Bank Treasurers' Account

The Council has one 'Treasurers' Account, for which there is a cheque book and now a monitored BACS system. No cash is handled. Councillor Sean Ceres advises the Clerk when setting budgets and monitoring the spend.

Lengthsman Scheme

This scheme is managed and funded by Worcestershire County Council (WCC). Ben Perry, Bushley's Lengthsman, has completed the required health and safety training and is fully insured to work within the village and surrounds. He uses his own transport and equipment and receives signage and safety equipment from WCC. Ben invoices me monthly and we have meetings several times every year to discuss priorities, problems and ideas. He also manages and monitors the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) Camera.

Insurance

In 2018 BHIB took over the insurance of Local Councils. As one would expect, their insurance is very comprehensive and meets our needs. Advice in related issue is readily available. Councillor Latter oversees any insurance issues to support the Clerk. The annual cost for 2018/19 year has been £191.60 including tax.

Youth Fund

This is a restricted fund within the Treasurers' Account. It may be used by secondary school pupils for educational trips and experiences following a written request to Councillor Kinghorn and Rachel Perry who monitor it. Each student may request £100 towards the cost of the experience and is asked to make a short presentation to Councillors, at a meeting, on their return. (£378 is currently available).

Other matters

- a. The Clerk regularly posts information in the monthly Bushley News, to help residents keep abreast of matters of interest. These include roadworks, broadband, road closures and individual questions asked.
- b. The weekly 'Malvern Hills District Council email news' (just google that) is well worth signing up to. It has new information every week about re-cycling, reducing food waste and much more.
- c. The free visit to ENVIROSORT, at Norton near Worcester, earlier in the year, was very interesting but only a few people went. Another opportunity will be offered soon.
- d. District Councillor Bronwen Behan and County Councillor Tom Wells support Bushley Council by attending meetings, listening to concerns, advising and offering funding when relevant. Thank you both