

Finance Report

The Finance committee met, and it was agreed that the precept, be increased by 2.99%.

The rationale behind this decision was based on the fact we have held the precept at the same level for 3 years, however, due to increased costs from inflation and material increases in general we felt it necessary to apply this small increase.

It is also necessary for us to spend the money received from CIL payments within a set period of time. To ensure that we get the best value for money and maximum impact for the town the JPC will be working together to create a 2 year Capital investment programme plan. This will be published before the end of the first quarter and will show all capital proposals for improving our town facilities.

As an example, a permanent and maintained toilet block is proposed on The Riverlands park. Our footpaths will be made more accessible with potentially strategically placed handrails. These are just a couple of our immediate plans, but, of course this is your town, so all suggestions and ideas will be most welcome and considered as part of this working party.

The Clerks wages have been reviewed and agreement to bring salary in line with national pay scales agreed.

It has also been proposed that Cllr Rouse will take over responsibility for the finances, along with this the adoption of new finance software namely Xero with this being overseen by Cllr Okey and the finance group.

This change will result in reduced hours for the clerk and a financial saving for the town.

The Clerk has also indicated his desire to retire but will continue to work on a part time basis until we are able to secure a new Clerk. We will be looking to advertise this position, on a part time basis, in the very near future. Any expressions of interests in this role would be welcomed.