

News from the Parish Council – April 2022

The Parish Council met on 30th March. As always, formal minutes can be found on the Parish Noticeboard beside the bus-shelter on Top Street and on the Parish Council website <https://www.wingrutland-pc.gov.uk/> but here are a few ‘highlights’!

Vacancies on the Council

We have still been unable to find anyone to step forward to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council. Another election will be called in May, and it would be wonderful to hear from anyone who would be willing to stand – do speak to any Councillor about what is involved, essentially just six meetings each year

Council tax bills and the Parish Precept

The budget and Parish Precept for the 2022/23 financial year were agreed in November but villagers will only recently have received their council tax demands. The Parish Precept has increased by 13% this year, admittedly a big percentage change but modest in terms of the actual amount. The total precept of £11,632 remains less than £10 per household per year. Most of this year’s increase was to restore our reserve to recommended levels, after it had been eaten away by unforeseen expenditure in recent years (for instance on the bus shelter on Top Street). The precept pays for the salary of our hard-working Parish Clerk; the mowing and maintenance of verges, the recreation field and children’s play area; street lighting; our defibrillator; and assorted essential administrative commitments including the website, insurance policies, subscriptions, training courses and annual audit. Full details of the budget for this and previous years can be found among the Minutes on the Parish Council website.

Looking after Wing

The Parish Council is in discussion with Rutland County Council about the best way to remedy the deterioration of roadside verges, especially in Middle Street. There are no easy solutions for narrow lanes that were not designed for modern usage that includes street parking and access for large delivery lorries and refuse collections.

Maintenance of Wing Maze is similarly a long-standing issue. This should primarily be a matter for Historic England and the County Council, but in practice it falls to the Parish Council and local volunteers to monitor the situation and try to do something about it.

Dog fouling is another recurring problem, which always seems to increase during the holiday season. We are always pleased to see visitors enjoying our lovely village but hope they (as well as permanent residents) will be mindful of obligations to clear up after their pets and leave our footpaths as clean as (we hope) they found them.

Next Meeting

The next meeting, on Weds 25th May, is the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. It would be good to see lots of villagers there!