

**TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 8.30p.m.  
on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Present**

Councillor Arden  
Councillor Carter  
Councillor Ferris  
Councillor Gregory – In the Chair  
Councillor Hill  
Councillor Jeffrey  
Councillor Lightfoot  
Councillor Newbold  
Councillor White  
J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

**16/135 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**16/136 BUDGET 2016/17 AND 2017/18**

**Clerk** had provided members with up to date financial information on 2016/17, committed expenditure for 2017/18 and information received from the Borough Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.

Over the last two financial years the future of the grant the Borough Council paid to parish councils had been considered as part of the Borough Council's budget process. In 2015 the Council's Cabinet decided to phase out the grant it paid to parishes over three years starting in 2016/17.

At the request of parish and town councils in Rotherham the decision to reduce the grant was reviewed by Commissioner Sir Derek Myers, and, as a consequence, the grant for 2016/17 was reduced as planned by one third. It was agreed that prior to the further reductions in grant being implemented in 2017/18 the Council would reconsider the position.

The Borough Council had now reviewed its 2015 decision to phase out the grant to parishes and this was discussed at a meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, where it was confirmed that the planned grant reductions would go ahead. This means that the existing remaining grant will be reduced by 50% in 2017/18 and will end in 2018/19 completing the three year phased reduction first announced in 2015.

This decision was taken in light of the substantial and sustained budget pressures facing the Borough Council in coming years resulting from reducing levels of government grant and high levels of demand for Children and Young People's Care and Adult Care Services. In order to resolve the pressure on their budgets it was essential that these services received additional budget resources, although this would add to the challenges facing the Borough Council in coming years.

The financial pressures on the Borough Council meant that it must achieve all planned savings.

The planned reduction in grant meant that the Borough Council would be allocating £737 in grant to Todwick Parish. This grant would be paid in addition to the precept that the Parish Council set for 2017/18.

The Borough Council had also recently calculated its Council Tax Base for 2017/18, which in respect of Todwick was 648.60 for Band D Equivalent Properties. This would be confirmed by a meeting of the full Borough Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The Parish Council Tax would be calculated by dividing the precept by the Council Tax Base. This sum would be added to the Borough, Police and Fire Council Tax charged to households in proportion to the Tax Band the property falls into (i.e. Bands A to H).

Based on the Todwick tax base for 2017/18, an increase of 0.6% in the Parish Precept for 2017/18 would recoup the loss of grant and generate the same level of cash income as Todwick received in 2016/17 from precept and grant combined.

A further increase of £1.14 in the parish Council Tax for 2018/19 would generate sufficient resources to compensate for the loss of grant in that financial year.

Alternatively, if Todwick chose not to increase its parish Council Tax for 2017/18 it would raise £43,424 in income and each 1% rise in parish Council Tax will generate £434 additional income for the parish.

In the recent Local Government Finance Settlement Announcement the Secretary of State indicated that the capping of parish precepts was to be deferred for a year.

### **Resolved**

1. To ring fence an additional £5000 from the 2016/17 budget to assist with funding for the multi-purpose play area at the recreation ground.
2. To support the village school's application for a grant towards its "Who we are" initiative and contribute up to £300 towards the cost of providing all-weather clothing for the participating children
3. That the budget for financial year 2017/18 comprise:-

	£
Administration	15700 (incl. staff costs)
Village Hall	200
Recreation Ground	17200
Allotments	1000
Village Maintenance	5500
Children's Playground	1000
Donations	2000
Events	2800
<u>Total</u>	<u>44,400</u>

### **16/137 PRECEPT 2017/18**

The Borough Council had requested that details in writing (by letter or email) of the Parish

Council’s precept be received no later than Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 in order to allow the Borough Council to set its revenue budget and Council Tax for 2017/18.

**Resolved** that in order to maintain income at the same level as in recent years, the precept for 2016/17 of £42,925 be increased to £43,663 for year 2017/18.

The format to be used for the precept request:

Todwick Precept for 2017/18	£43,663
Grant Allocation for 2017/18	£737
Total Required from Rotherham MBC (i.e. precept plus grant)	£44,400

**16/138 URGENT ITEMS**

1. Car Parking

**Jeffrey** circulated a notice from another authority attached to the windscreens of offending vehicles when parked so as to obstruct the footway or otherwise park in contravention of the Highway Code. Maybe something similar might be used in Todwick.

**Members** did not support doing this since it would be an offence if placed within the eye line of someone driving the vehicle and would potentially cause litter as drivers threw it away.

**Gregory** undertook to place an appropriate article in the next edition of The Informer newsletter.

*The Meeting Closed at 10.12 p.m.*

The next Council Meeting will be in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00p.m. on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

..... Chairman

..... Date