

Payment:

On a proposal by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Clarke and agreed by all, the following payments were approved:

John Hill – Clerk’s half-year salary (net of tax)	£617.20
HMRC – PAYE 3 rd quarter tax	£77.15
Petty Cash top up	£80.00

Retrospective approval of Payments:

On a proposal by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Greenfield, Members unanimously approved, retrospectively, the following payments:

RCC street lighting costs	£121.00
HMRC – PAYE 2 nd quarter tax	£77.15
Benchmark Ltd picnic table	£264.00
Pat Butler Electrical – Defibrillator power	£102.00
Biffa (ex Cory) - grass cutting	£218.80

Budget & Precept:

The Clerk had circulated previously a Draft budget and Precept recommendation for 2017/18 indicating a likely Precept of £3,500, the same as the current year. After discussion, in anticipation of expenditure on renewing the bark surface of a section of the children’s play area, this was raised to £3,600.

Therefore, on a proposition by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Coop, the Precept for 2017/18 was set at £3,600. All were in favour.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REVIEW:

The Parish Council’s Risk Management Strategy had been circulated to facilitate the annual review. There being no additional risks to consider, on a proposition by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Greenfield, all were in favour of retaining the document unamended for the coming year.

7. HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

Footpaths: On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Clarke has agreed a trial programme of slurry treatment for the footpaths, commencing with 18-26 Main Street. He will check on progress with Rob Baxter at Rutland County Council District Council.

Bridle Path: Councillor Lang reported on an on-site meeting with the County Council regarding the retention and condition of the local Bridle Path. Photographs were taken and an assurance given that this will be maintained and not ploughed up.

Traffic calming measures:

In the absence of County Councillor Lammie, Councillor Clarke will also follow this issue up with Rob Baxter.

Street Lighting: The Heritage Lantern outside Cathy Wootton’s home has been replaced.

8. THOMPSON’S FIELD:

It had been agreed previously that Councillors Lang and Coop, who had declared an interest, should be allowed to speak on this item in order to progress matters.

Grass cutting contract 2017/18: The Clerk reported that Biffa (which has taken over Cory Environmental Management's grass cutting business) does not propose to increase charges in the 2017/18 season. Although the weed treatment effort during the past season had been minimal, on a proposition by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Coop, it was unanimously agreed to award Biffa the contract again. This would include cutting the grass paths in the allotment area.

The issue of Mole infestation on the playing field was raised and it was agreed to enlist the service of a molecatcher. Councillor Coop will obtain a price from 'Black velvet'.

Play area resurfacing:

The resurfacing programme being carried out by Councillor's Coop and Lammie has continued. The top end area has been grassed and is growing well and will be reopened in time for the Easter holidays. Councillor Coop will obtain further supplies of suitable grass seed.

9. ALLOTMENTS:

It had been agreed previously that Councillors Lang and Coop, who had declared an interest, should be allowed to speak on this item in order to progress matters.

Allotment rent review: Members reviewed the position. The question of at least recovering some of the extra cost (approximately £180) of cutting the grass on the allotment paths was considered. Councillor Greenfield undertook to devise and propose a scheme to the allotment holders based on a small extra rental charge for each plot pro rata. A draft will be circulated for Members' approval.

Brian Kirby has notified the Clerk that he will be vacating his large plot at the end of the 2017 season.

10. PROPOSED CHANGES TO HEALTH AND CARE IN RUTLAND:

Councillor Greenfield attended a meeting on behalf of the Parish Council at which a Draft Strategic Plan was presented for discussion which proposed significant changes to healthcare provision in Rutland. These particularly involve a reduction in the available beds at Oakham and Kettering, relying instead on the unproven 'Homefirst' system. People needing a bed would have to travel to Melton or Market Harborough leading to possible transport difficulties. Two further engagement events to discuss these proposals will be held on 24th & 26th January 2017. Due to other commitments, only Councillors Coop and Lammie would be available on these dates. Councillor Greenfield will advertise the events on the web site. It was also suggested that the LRALC could coordinate a response from Parish Councils.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following items were tabled:

RCC: 2016/1159/CAT – Tree Work, New House, Thompson's Lane; Decision – no TPO;

Barrowden Parish Council: E-mail asking for support in objecting to reduced working hours for the County Council's Conservation Officer. The Clerk was asked to respond saying that more evidence that this reduction would be detrimental is required;

UKLC: Following receipt of an invitation, Members agreed that Councillor Greenfield should attend a web site conference at the King Power stadium in Leicester, administered by 2Commune. The cost is £75 + VAT.

12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

It was proposed to hold the next Parish Council meeting on Thursday 6th April 2017 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 20.17 hrs.

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