



CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND POLICY REPORT 2020/2021

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown meetings have successfully been held remotely using the Zoom platform.

The precept for the new financial year 2020/21 was increased by 2%. Due to an increase in the band D equivalent dwellings of 10 this meant that the actual charge to residents was slightly reduced. The increase was necessary to cover inflationary increases in expenditure and to start to rebuild the reserve some of which was used to finance the new website.

The budget was carefully considered in order that we can meet all expenditure and satisfy all legal financial obligations.

Once again the council had a successful audit and my thanks go to the Parish Clerk Vitti Osborne for the work she does each year to present the financial statements to the external auditor.

The launch of the new website was successful and positive feedback has been received about its design and content. Slowly more residents are starting to use the online contact form which we aim to reply to within 24 hours.

The contract with KMBC for maintenance of the pasture was renewed for a further year. The Pasture maintenance is the council's biggest expenditure and continues to rise each year. A working group has been formed to work on a master plan for the future of the Pasture. This is being done in partnership with KMBC officers and senior officers have been made aware of the impact the maintenance costs are having on the council's budget.

At each meeting monitoring of the budget and associated payments is undertaken before payments are approved.

We continue to offer grants to local community groups which are always gratefully received.

In the summer a working group will commence a full review of the council taking all activities and organisation into account. A report will be submitted to the full council in the Autumn for consideration.

Councillor Shaun Cooper
Chair
Finance and Policy Committee
Cronton Parish Council

