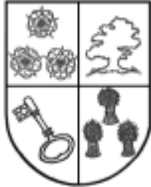


Barton-under-Needwood Parish Council

<p>Clerk to the Council <u>Mrs Siobhan Rumsby</u></p> <p>Tel: 01283 716059 (24 hour answerphone)</p> <p>Email: bartonpc@btinternet.com www.bartonparishcouncil.org.uk</p> <p> </p>	 <p><u>Parish Council Office hours –</u></p> <p>Monday 10.00am – 12.00pm (except Bank Holidays) Wednesday 1pm – 3pm Thursday 1pm-3pm</p>	<p>Village Hall Crowberry Lane Barton-under-Needwood Burton on Trent Staffordshire DE13 8AF</p>
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The Parish Council office is open at the Village Hall at the times as stated above. Copies of the Parish Council minutes, planning applications etc are available for inspection and the Clerk is available to deal with any comments or queries.

March 2018

Dear Parishioners

Parish Council Precept

Traditionally, the Parish Council was reimbursed by the County Council to employ a local person to act as Lengthsman who reported any highways issues in the parish to the County for resolution. This reimbursement was withdrawn in 2017, but the Parish Council made the decision to absorb the costs associated with the role including salary, administration and equipment costs. The County Council are now devolving further tasks to the Parish Council who will become responsible for carrying out small highway maintenance tasks identified by the local community as important. These additional tasks include keeping footpaths clear and passable, cleaning signage whilst still highlighting any significant Highways defects for urgent repair to the County Council.

As a result, the Parish Council has approved an increase in your Parish Council precept. Based on an average Band D Parish Tax rate this will mean an increase per household of £2.71 per annum.

This decision was not taken lightly and is the first increase in your Parish Rate since 2010.

County Council funds have been prioritised for use in other areas such as social care. You will have noticed that maintenance work carried out by Staffordshire County Council Highways Teams has been in decline for some time and various tasks are being left to Parishes.

The increase in the precept will go towards covering the cost of an enhanced Lengthsman's role and providing additional equipment. It is likely the role will further evolve as our discussions continue over the coming months and may include other small-scale maintenance work, either directly or jointly with the local community and the partners involved.

One of the areas the Parish Council would like to see properly maintained is St James Road pocket park. This is the responsibility of East Staffordshire Borough Council, but we are currently negotiating what can be done with this area and it is likely the Parish Council will take on responsibility for maintaining this area.

As will be evident, for a relatively low proportion of your council tax, this Parish Council is doing all it can do to keep your village looking the best it can do on the diminishing funding available.

Yours faithfully



Siobhan Rumsby
Parish Clerk