**ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**On behalf of my fellow Councillors may I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.**

**MEETINGS in February**

Monday 10 – Planning Committee, then Allotments Committee, in The Court Hall, Winchelsea.

Monday 24 -
Planning Committee, then Staffing Committee, in the Court Hall, Winchelsea.

**2020-2021 Budget**

The Parish Council approved its budget for the next financial year at a special meeting in December. The precept is £113,474. This supports a total budget for the year of £168,189.

The balance is made up of monies carried forward where projects will incomplete at the end of the current municipal year or have been delayed by factors outside the Council’s control, as well income expected to be received. Council noted that donations income from Rye Harbour Car Park had already exceeded the level predicted in the current year’s budget with three more collections due before the end of the year.

**Council Meeting –** 13th January.

**Traffic Calming**

In response to a question from the public gallery, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that progress was on track. The process to acquire funding was nearly complete and once that was in place ESCC would be requested to proceed with the design process. It was anticipated that the County Council would outsource the work.

It was reported later in the meeting by the Council’s delegates to the Rother Association of Local Council’s that speeding was a problem experienced by all the Associations members and that they were working on an initiative for the whole of their area.

**Travellers sites.**

Council resolved to support a National Association of Local Council’s initiative to criminalize unauthorised encampments, to make the easier and less costly to resolve. The Council has direct experience of this problem as we have had two such encampments on Icklesham Recreation Ground in recent years.

**Cricket Field Allotments.**

The National Trust have sought an increase in the rent that the Council pays for this site, to £112.69. Council agreed the increase but noted the Trust use the Retail Price Index to calculate the adjustment in rent level. The RPI is a discredited index which bizarrely the Office for Government Statistics still calculates although government has removed it from the official list of indexes. A more accurate index is the Jevons version if RPI, known as RPIJ.

Better news is that we currently have only one vacant half plot on the site and there is a potential tenant for that site.

Work to provide a safety handrail to the path from Hogtrough Lane should be carried out shortly.

**Rye Harbour Sailability**

Council approved a grant of £200 towards the purchase of a safety boat, subject to the officers checking whether the proposal was exempt VAT. Vat has been included in the calculations submitted in support of the application.

**Annual Safety Inspection**

Council noted that the Officers are working through the list of high-risk issues identified by the Health and Safety Consultant. This primarily involves ensuring replacement parts are fitted on play equipment where necessary.

Your Councillors are here to represent you and welcome your views on any matter. Please do talk to them or send your reviews/requests to the Parish Clerk at ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk or write to **PO Box 395, HASTINGS. TN34 9JU**

Peter Turner