

## NOTES FROM JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Budget: the budget and then the precept (the amount of money we ask Somerset Council to raise from local residents to fund Parish Council activities) for the following financial year were voted on and approved. I am glad to say we agreed to keep the precept to the same as last year, £82,410. Because there has been a small increase in the number of houses in the village, your Council Tax will go down a little. For a Band D property, this will mean the Parish element of your Council Tax will be £62.99. This is just under 2% less than last year.

Storm Darragh: following the power outage at the top end of the village in early December which was caused by a fallen tree, the Clerk made a complaint to National Grid. Their representative said *'Please allow me to take the opportunity to apologise for the lengthy interruption experienced by the local residents, and provide some reassurance that events like this are proactively prevented'*. I hope this means they are on the case.

Traffic Calming Project: a couple of residents asked about the lack of progress with the Parish Council proposals to re-enforce the 20 mph limit in the village. Yes, progress is frustratingly slow. We are working with Somerset Council to make a start with the Cothelstone Road Gateway and have asked them to provide full costings and timescales for delivery of this site by the end of this month. We hope to have more information for the February meeting.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS): the Parish Council now has 2 solar powered SIDS and four potential sites (Hither Mead, Cothelstone Road near the entrance to Delta Rise, Greenway Road and Taunton Road) have been agreed with Somerset Council. We plan to rotate the SIDS between these four sites and have asked our excellent Lengthsman to move the device currently in Hither Mead to Cothelstone Road and to erect the second device in Greenway Road. WE hope these will have an impact on traffic speeds.

There is lots more information, including all the papers for the January meeting, on the Parish Council website and, as ever, if you have any comments on any of this, or any other issues, please feel free to contact me or the Clerk.

And finally, a big thank you to the Christmas Lights team. The village looked beautiful over Christmas and New Year and the lights were much admired. Well done!



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