



## Chair's Monthly Newsletter – November 2022

Our focus in recent months has been the parish budget for the financial year 2023/24, quite a challenge in a time of economic uncertainty and impending hardship.

Like many other parish councils, this year's precept was set before the current inflationary pressures were known through soaring energy prices and increasing costs of raw materials and labour. Fortunately, our energy tariff for the street lights was fixed to the end of July 2022 and has now been re-negotiated for a further 2 years to provide a degree of certainty for the future. In addition to which the parish has also benefited from volunteers helping with various tasks to keep labour costs down.

In a climate of increasing costs, as always, we continue to explore funding opportunities. The parish has already received various grants totalling some £70000 and we will continue to identify other funding sources to deliver any new projects. Other parishes often benefit from the money that comes from developers although there is of course very little new housing within Slindon to generate this type of income.

As in previous years, we will carefully examine each cost and work to ensure best value, although health and safety along with proper insurance cover is always paramount. Slindon's current band D charge of £66.14 per annum, compares favourably with the average of £74.94 per annum in England, and with the precept for 2023/24 likely to be confirmed at our December meeting, we will endeavour to adopt a prudent approach as we look to balance the books.

Whilst we hope that the winter will be both mild and uneventful, we have been asked to highlight the importance of preparing for any crisis and also raise awareness of the help available to those in need in difficult times. So do please visit the West Sussex County Council's website for more information on emergency planning and Arun District Council's website to find out more on cost of living support.

[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/9340/household\\_emergency\\_plan.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/9340/household_emergency_plan.pdf)

And finally as we look to next year, May 2023 will bring the local elections when nominations can be made to join the Council. Please let us know if you are interested either to stand for election and would like more information or perhaps join us sooner.

*Jan Rees, Chair, on behalf of Slindon Parish Council*