

The following is a summary of the main points that were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 12 December 2017.

### **Matters Arising From Meeting of 14 November 2017**

The PC had received notification from the Public Paths Officer at Lancashire County Council that any funds that are awarded for the upkeep of PROW will be sent directly to the PC.

After a request from the PC to Pendle Borough Council, the litter bin has been emptied in the playground.

### **Reports From Councillors**

Chris Burt received the judges report from the Best Kept Village Competition and sent it to the other councillors to invite their comments. The majority of the councillors, including him, were disappointed with its content, as in their opinion most of the points raised were outside of the control of the PC. Councillor Wilkinson thought the report was fair and could be used to improve things for next year. It was pointed out that it is difficult to persuade villagers, other than a few notable public spirited ones, to volunteer in keeping their village or area outside their house tidy.

Unfortunately there is a resurgent problem with dog fouling in Newchurch, which is particularly disappointing as there had been signs of an improvement during the summer. Gritting the roads remains problematic in the Parish, especially around Sabden Fold, during bad weather. The Parish Clerk has requested LCC to provide grit but there is a standard time period for this to be provided. Frustration was voiced by councillors about the length of time LCC take to complete jobs.

### **Woodland Trust**

Chris Burt advised that the PC has been successful in its bid to the Woodland Trust for a free pack of 420 saplings to be planted in Sparable Wood to replace the ash trees that have died due to disease. The saplings will arrive in March 2018, and will be planted by volunteers and pupils from St Mary's School. Residents may donate a tree with a memorial plaque if they wish.

The decision about continuing membership of the Lengthsman scheme will be postponed to the January meeting.

### **Draft Budget**

A draft budget for 2018/2018 has been prepared and was presented to councillors for discussion. The budget for 2018/2019 will be voted on and agreed in the January PC meeting.

### **Borough Councillor Report**

James Starkie reported that he had attended a meeting with various stakeholders that day about the 30 telegraph poles that had been put up in Barley Lane, Barley by Openreach. This is in order to carry fibre optic cable for high speed broadband. His opinion is that the poles are an eyesore in an AONB and instead the cable should be installed underground. This situation is ongoing and is yet to be resolved. The PC fully supports James in his endeavours.