

PARISH COUNCIL

My notes this month cover a mixed bag of topics from security to budgets and from dog fouling to crime reporting.

The first issue I would like to address is that of the PRECEPT. Hopefully everybody understands the premise of the PRECEPT. This is the amount of monies that that the Parish Council requests from the local council to manage its business in the parish on behalf of the residents. The PRECEPT is bid for annually and this year is no different.

The total amount bid for the year 2010/11 is: £38955

For your information the breakdown of this amount is listed below:

Administration & Insurance	£13555	Parish Rooms	£3400
Memorial Hall	£5000	Cemetery	£2500
Church Clock	£200	Playing Field	£4000
RBL Poppy Appeal	£100	Footpaths & Highways	£4900
School Fair	£500	Total	£14800
Millennium Green	£500		
Church	£800		
Scouts	£500		
Voluntary Car Service	£500		
Mother & Toddler	£500		
Allotments	£2000		
Total	£24155	Grand Total:	£24155 + £14800 = £38955

And now for something completely different. During the last few months the amount of dog fouling in the village has increased dramatically. This is not only unhygienic and unsightly but is also illegal (to allow your animal to foul the public highway) and the owners of animals who foul our roads and footpaths are liable to prosecution. The remedy is really quite simple and relies upon the owners to take with them on their walk a plastic bag to remove the waste produced by their animal. Please don't expect someone else to clean up after your animal. It is the responsibility of the owner and no one else. There are strategically placed receptacles around the village where the waste (in the bag) can be deposited

Our penultimate topic relates to identity theft. We have recently received a report from a resident of the village who reports hearing someone going through the contents of their 'blue' box. This is the one that contains paper waste etc. On reflection there can be no other reason for this than the person searching was hoping to find personal details relating to bank accounts, credit cards etc. With this in mind you are advised to ensure that all paperwork that may contain such personal details are shredded before being disposed of.

Lastly I would like to touch on the subject of crime in the village and the reporting thereof. It is of the utmost importance that all crimes committed against you or your property is reported to the police. By doing so accurate statistics are maintained that reflects the true nature of crimes and offences that take place in Goxhill. You should be aware that when the police allocate budgets to specific area they will look at the amount of crimes that have been reported and allocate their finite resources accordingly. Therefore by not reporting the crimes or offences a false picture can be presented and give the impression that Goxhill does not require any or a reduced police presence as no crime is being committed there. It would be great if this was the case but unfortunately it is not. It is more likely that the persons having a crime or an offence committed against them or their property do not bother reporting it as they are convinced it would be a waste of time to do so. It is not, I can assure you. Please report all crimes no matter how trivial as without the statistics we have no argument to support the call for a (regular) police presence in Goxhill.

That's it for this edition.

PJ Shields MBE QGM