



The Clerk and Chairman would make representations to CALC on the impact on smaller Councils of such large salary increases as there was concern about the challenge this would cause to services and staffing.

Cllr Hambly-Staite proposed that we reduce the paper issues of Connect newsletter to 1 a year instead of the 3 budgeted for as this would be a saving of £4429. Instead of 3 paper copies we could supplement these with emailed and electronic versions throughout the year, paper copies could still be delivered to those who were not online if requested and also paper copies could be put in the phonebox bookswaps, Doctors Surgery, Dentist and Tea Rooms, the same distribution as the Whats On. The March paper issue of Connect which was already included in the current financial year could be used to explain the new way of communication and encourage residents to sign up for the electronic newsletter.

Cllr Hambly-Staite said he had felt for some time that the Council needed to do more to promote to the public the services they provided and what they did for the public.

It was agreed for the Clerk to implement staff appraisals to get members of staffs ideas and input for how the Council could work more efficiently in the services it provides.

The Clerk explained that by reducing the issues of Connect in the budget from 3 to 1 a year and keeping the agreed precept for 2024/25 at £145,548 (a 3% increase on the current year), on the assumption that all projected income was received, this left the Council with £829 less at the end of the year than the budget previously agreed at the November meeting which was £3148 to go back into reserves.

The Clerk was asked to provide figures for if the precept was raised to leave the Council with the same amount left of £3148 as previously agreed and allowing for one paper copy of Connect to be issued in November/December.

The Clerk advised this would put up the precept to £146,377, a 3.58% increase, a band D property payment of the Parish Council element of the precept would be a 40p increase to £71.28 compared to £70.88 that had already been agreed by Full Council.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR HAMBLY-STAITTE PROPOSED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL BE THAT THE PRECEPT AMOUNT AND BUDGET HAD BEEN REVISITED AND THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE A 3.58% INCREASE GIVING A PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024/25 OF £146,377, SECONDED BY CLLR J ALLEN AND CARRIED.**

There being no further business the meeting closed 7.20pm