

## **Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council - January 2022**

**A Very Happy, Peaceful and Safe New Year to everyone in the Parish !**

### **Finance and the Parish Precept**

In November's newsletter I wrote about the Parish precept setting process. (The Parish precept is a constituent part of your annual Council Tax.) At the November meeting the Parish Council approved its budget and precept level for 2022/23. Next year's budget is some £6,000 lower than the 2021/22 budget but a small increase of 1.49% in the annual precept is considered necessary if a satisfactory level of reserves is to be maintained.

### **What is the Parish Council? What does it do?**

Civil parish councils were formed in England under the reforming Local Government Act 1894 to take over local oversight of civic duties in rural towns and villages. Each parish council's area of responsibility is a geographical area known as a civil parish; it has no connection with the Church (or its Parochial Church Council). Maresfield Parish includes the villages of Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley and surrounding countryside. Parish Councillors are elected every four years though vacancies can be filled by co-option or a by-election.

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), supporting local crime and road safety initiatives and local highway matters such as street lighting and maintenance of roadside verges. They have the power to do a large variety of things, including providing allotments, bus shelters and cemeteries and are often involved in the provision of community transport schemes, sport and recreation facilities and tourism. Parish councils can also provide a focus for representing local issues and identity.

Maresfield Parish Council has a quota of fourteen Councillors; currently we have twelve. It is a worthwhile and satisfying role so if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact our Clerk, Claire Goossens, on 714555.

### **Covid-19 Pandemic**

Various pandemic related restrictions are still in force so if you are quarantining, self-isolating or are otherwise vulnerable do remember that if you need assistance of a non-medical nature, you can phone the Parish Office on 714555 or contact the Wealden District Council Community Hub on 01342 443322.

### **Useful links are:**

<https://my.wealden.gov.uk/>      <http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/>      <https://www.ashdownforest.org/>

And you can also follow the Parish Council on Twitter and Facebook.

**Martin Craddock** – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council

