

Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council - January 2023

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 December meeting the Parish Council was expected to approved its Budget and Precept level for 2023/24. The recommendation at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 6th December was for a modest increase, well below the prevailing inflation rate, whilst maintaining a satisfactory level of reserves.

What is the Parish Council? What does it do?

Perhaps it is timely to remind you what the Parish Council is and what it does. 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 the Parochial Church Council). Maresfield Parish includes the villages of Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley and surrounding countryside. Parish Councillors are elected every four years, the next election being in May 2023. However casual 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 on Planning Applications), 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 thirteen. It is a worthwhile and satisfying role so if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact our Clerk, Nancy O'Hanlon, on 714555.

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

