



North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

20th December 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE NORTH WEALD BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

You are hereby invited to attend a **Meeting** of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** which will be held on **Monday 6th January 2014**, in the **Library, 138 High road, North Weald** at **7.30pm** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To **RECEIVE** any apologies for absence.

2. OTHER ABSENCES

To **NOTE** any absences for which no apology has been received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To **RECEIVE** any Declarations of Interest by Members.

A Member with a personal interest in a matter must consider whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary, Non Pecuniary or Other Pecuniary Interest, and declare it accordingly. A Member who is unsure as to how to declare their interest should seek independent advice.

4. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2014/2015 

Members may recall at the November 2013 Finance and General Purposes meeting, a 0% increase in the budget for 2014/2015 was agreed (which was ratified at the December Parish Council meeting).

The precept for last year was £152,002 (made up of a £13,265 Parish Support Grant from EFDC, and the **official** precept amount of **£138,815**). Members may recall that it was

decided to 'view' the precept as being £152,002 so as not to show an 8.6% reduction in the precept (which was one of our concerns, and a letter was in fact written to EFDC explaining the Parish Councils concerns).

For 2014/2015, the precept was modelled on the same calculations, with the reduction in support grant being received for 2014/2015 being factored in (£11,461). By continuing with the calculations used for last year (viewing the precept at £152,002) technically we see that we haven't increased our precept, i.e. it remains at £152,002.

As perceived this is now causing a problem, in that in order to reach the £152,002, we would need to put in a precept request to District Council of £140,541 (as opposed to £138,815) in order to reach the £152,002 which will show a 1.24% increase.

However, in order to resolve this issue, it is **PROPOSED** that the following takes place:

1. The difference of £1,726 is taken from the £20,000 car park fund, reducing the car park fund to £18,274, therefore meaning **the 0% increase in precept is retained**.
2. That the precept for the Parish Council is calculated and *VIEWED* as its proper amount (£140,541) for both this year and also going forward so that this misinterpretation does not re-occur. (Councillors are asked to **NOTE** that whilst this would look as though the Parish Council has reduced its precept, the way District Council manages Parish Council funds means **WE** have to amend our process to accommodate this).

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** that unless this change is made, the same issue will re-occur next year, as the District Council believes a further 14.1 reduction in Parish Support Grant will take place next year. It is our understanding that a number of local councils have now created contingency funds (named under various headings) to accommodate these anticipated reductions over the coming years.