

Blankney Parish Council Annual Meeting 5th May 2021

Report from the Parish Council Chairman

Dear Parishioners

When you received your 2021/22 Council Tax Advice, you will have seen there was an extra charge this year for the Parish Council Precept. The charge for the Precept is in line with other Parishes in the district.

The Parish Council have decided to introduce a Precept for the following reasons: -

1. In the past any costs relating to a Parish election were covered by the Members themselves. This has not been onerous because we hardly ever have an election. However, NKDC have now advised us that even if we don't hold an election, we will nevertheless be responsible for a District Council administration charge, and in the event that we do hold an election the charge made by the District Council is likely to be in the region of £2,000 - £3,000.
2. The position of Clerk to Blankney Parish Council has been 'honorary', but the ever-increasing work load means that the time has come to remunerate the Clerk appropriately for his/her time and expenses.
3. We are now required to form and maintain a Parish Website - yet more work for the Clerk.
4. The Church Yard at St. Oswald's is nearly full, and the Church Wardens have advised the Parish Council that there is the possibility that the church may soon close. In order to ensure there is adequate burial space available at Blankney the Parish Council intend to purchase from the Parochial Church Council an area of land adjoining the southern edge of the Church Yard for the creation of a cemetery. It is hoped that no charge will be made for the land, however there will be Land Registry and legal fees, together with ongoing maintenance and administration costs for the Parish Council to pay.

I am sure you can appreciate the financial problems that we now face. I have been a Parish Councillor for a very long time and have no wish to have a Precept but the situation has changed greatly over the last few years and sadly I feel we have no choice.

Cllr Richard W Parker Parish Council Chairman 5th May 2021