

2017/18 budget

The Parish Council set its budget for the financial year 2017/18 at a meeting on 31 January and agreed an increase in the precept of 9.2%. Members feel this level of increase justifies an explanation.

Residents will be aware that during the last 3 years two major planning applications for development within the parish have been submitted; these are for the massive expansion of Clearwell / Stowe Hill quarry and for the installation of a 350,000 bird broiler unit at Clearwell Farm.

The overwhelming opinion of those residents who have expressed a view, and of the Parish Council, is that neither of these applications should succeed and thus positive opposition was required to have them both refused.

BROILER UNIT APPLICATION – CLEARWELL FARM

The Parish Council employed a planning consultant to make the case to the District Council in respect of the broiler unit at a cost of £4000, of which £3000 was contributed by businesses in the area, thus the cost to the Parish Council was £1000. The District Council was convinced by our case and refused the application; however, the applicant has now appealed the decision and the Parish Council considers it must respond to that appeal.

We have therefore instructed our planning consultant to prepare our response and, if the Inspector agrees to our request for the appeal to be dealt with by a Hearing (rather than simply an exchange of written representations) our consultant has been instructed to act on our behalf and represent the Parish Council at the appeal Hearing. We have thus added a sum of £2750 to the £4000 (gross) already spent this year to cover the consultant's costs. This will increase the overspend in the current year (2016/17) to £6311, compared to a budgeted deficit of £3500.

QUARRY EXPANSION – CLEARWELL / STOWE HILL QUARRY

Turning now to the application by Breedon Southern Ltd to expand Clearwell / Stowe Hill quarry, this has been going on since 2014/15 and to date we have spent c. £8300 on fighting this application. Of that sum £3500 has been contributed by 3rd parties, including our colleagues at St Briavels and West Dean Parish Councils and Coleford Town Council. Once again we are representing the huge number of residents who are opposed to this expansion.

We do not envisage any significant additional expenditure this year; however if when the GCC Planning Committee meets (which is not likely before July 2017), it decides to approve the application then the Parish Council will consider what further action to take and that could include seeking a Judicial Review. The cost of such an action will be considerable (probably well in to 5 figures), and is one which the Parish Council could not possibly fund with considerable contributions which could be raised through a crowd-funding exercise.

If the application is refused, Breedon's would undoubtedly appeal and we would face having to make representations at that appeal. For the time being though it was felt prudent to include a budget of £7000 next year.

By deferring three other projects to reduce expenditure and by increasing the precept by £2125, next year's projected deficit has been kept down to £3540.

The deficit in both years will be funded from reserves which we have accumulated over the years; the purpose of holding reserves is to fund unexpected costs such as these. By increasing next year's precept we are able to maintain the reserves at a level acceptable to our auditors and be ready to meet any further unexpected costs in the future.

It is quite possible that all the additional expenditure detailed here will not have to be met, in which case the projected two year deficit of some £9800 will be reduced and, all other things being equal, could enable the Parish Council to reduce the precept from 2018/19 onwards.

We have listened to your views on these two controversial planning proposals and acted on them. We trust you agree that this additional expenditure is warranted, bearing in mind it means a very small increase in the Parish Council's element of the Community Charge of around 13p / week for a Band 'D' property.

	2016/17 budget	Expected year end figure	Notes	2017/18 budget	Notes
INCOME					
Precept	23105	23105	1	25230	6
Other income	490	1740	2	420	
TOTAL INCOME	23555	24845		25650	
EXPENDITURE					
Staff costs	11400	13300		11750	
Office costs	1685	1505		1715	
Other admin costs	3070	2651		2925	
Community costs	6900	3950	3	5050	3
Quarry opposition	1000	3000		7000	7
Broiler unit opposition	3000	6750		0	
Capital expenditure	0	0		750	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	27055	31156		29190	
DEFICIT	3500	6311		3540	

NOTES					
1	2016/17 figure is the total of the precept £22125 + an additional grant of £980 which is no longer being paid to parishes.				
2	Includes 3 rd party contributions to quarry opposition				
3	Community costs breakdown:				
	2016/17 budget	Expected year end figure	Notes	2017/18 budget	Notes
Newsletter	300	200		250	
Grants awarded	4000	3050		3500	
Collection of dog waste	600	600		600	
Heritage asset maintenance / Conservation Volunteers	1500	0	4	0	4
Project – walks leaflet	500	0	5	500	5
General property maintenance	0	100		100	
Defibrillators	0	0		100	
TOTALS	6900	3950		5050	
4	Expenditure deferred until 2018/19				
5	Expenditure deferred until July 2017				
6	Increase of 9.2% over 2016/17				
7	To cover any further expenditure re opposing planning application.				

Stowe Hill / Clearwell quarry planning application

County Council draft Minerals Local Plan 2016 (dMLP)

PLANNING APPLICATION

Towards the end of last year GCC requested further information from Breedon's in support of the application; Breedon's responded with an additional 70 documents (bring the total to close on 200!). We have analysed these and will be submitting a further response to them by early March.

The application is not expected to come to the planning committee before the meeting on 27 July (please make a note in your diary). When we have a firm date we will encourage as many of you as possible to attend a 'peaceful presence' outside Shire Hall with banners, placards etc, and also inside the Council Chamber. We will arrange transport for you if necessary.

**TEMPLATE LETTER OF OBJECTION ENCLOSED – PLEASE PERSONALISE AND
SUBMIT BY 15 MARCH**

MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

The next stage of this process is for a further public consultation later in the year.

Clearwell Farm broiler unit planning application

We are disappointed but not surprised that the applicant has lodged an appeal against the refusal by FoDDC for a 350,000 bird broiler unit on the site. On 17 February we submitted a 16 page statement in support of the refusal of permission by the District Council and requested that the Inspector deal with this appeal by way of a Hearing rather than simple exchange of correspondence.

If the appeal is simply dealt with by written representations then the appellants can withhold facts which he thinks may work against him; if

however there is a hearing, both parties get the opportunity of questioning the other and bringing to the Inspector's attention matters of which he otherwise would not necessarily be aware.

Broadband provision in Newland

There is some slow progress on this, more in the next issue.

Francis Miles VC Commemorative Stone

Suggestions received from Clearwell residents to date for the location of the stone are: in the outside street wall of the cemetery / Chapel in High Street, on the front wall of the Memorial Hall and set in to The Cross. The landowners of the first two sites have indicated their agreement; however it would be necessary to obtain the permission of English Heritage to have it placed in The Cross. When we replaced the bollards around The Cross some years ago it took two years to obtain English Heritage's permission, and they have not even replied to an initial enquiry this time. For this reason, that location must be excluded.

We would like residents of Clearwell to 'vote' on their preferred location so please complete the voting slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to the Clerk at Waterley Bottom. The Cross, Clearwell GL16 8JU, by the end of March. **DETACH PAGES 7 & 8 TO VOTE**

Councillors

KAREN BRIDGE 01600 716841 E: karenbridge147@gmail.com

BILL EVANS (Vice Chairman)

01594 837211 E: billtevans@btinternet.com

TERRY HALE 01594 833508 E: terry@terryhale.wanadoo.co.uk

JOHN JAMES 01594 837992 E: horoligist@yahoo.co.uk

BRIAN JONES 01594 530327 E: brian.jones@synertex.co.uk

ALAN PURVIS (Chairman)

01600 715620 E: purvisnpurvis@hotmail.co.uk

VALERIE SOUTHALL 01600 712711 E: valerie.southall@yahoo.co.uk

DAVID WHEELER 01600 716281 E: daj.wheeler@btinternet.com

DAVID WRIGHT 01594 562236 E: davew562@yahoo.co.uk

Clerk

RICHARD CRIGHTON 01594 836454 E: newlandpc@sky.com

VOTING SLIP FOR THE PREFERRED LOCATION OF THE FRANCES MILES VC
COMMEMORATIVE STONE.

Please note **you must be on the Electoral Register to vote** so we need your full name and address to check eligibility. More than 1 person at the address may vote on the same slip. Each voter must sign their vote.

Please return it to the Clerk at Waterley Bottom, The Cross, Clearwell GL16 8JU by 31 March.

VOTER NO.1	
FULL NAME.....	
ADDRESS.....	
PLACE A 'X IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX:	
CEMETERY WALL <input type="checkbox"/>	MEMORIAL HALL WALL <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER (STATE WHERE, BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/>	
.....	
SIGNATURE.....	

VOTER NO.2	
FULL NAME.....	
ADDRESS.....	
PLACE A 'X IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX:	
CEMETERY WALL <input type="checkbox"/>	MEMORIAL HALL WALL <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER (STATE WHERE, BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/>	
.....	
SIGNATURE.....	

VOTER NO.3

FULL NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PLACE A 'X IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

CEMETERY WALL MEMORIAL HALL WALL

OTHER (STATE WHERE, BELOW)

.....

VOTER NO.4

FULL NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PLACE A 'X IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

CEMETERY WALL MEMORIAL HALL WALL

OTHER (STATE WHERE, BELOW)

.....

SIGNATURE.....