

Croscombe Parish Council

Clerk's Report to 07 Feb 24

The precept for 2024-25 was set in the Council meeting of 9th January 2024 at £12,650, a 10% increase. The precept form was completed and submitted to Somerset Council's Parish Precepts Department, who acknowledged receipt and confirmed that the form was in order.

Somerset Council's Democratic Services were informed of the co-option of a new councillor, Anthony Hargraves. He completed a Register of Members' Interests form which was lodged with the council. The Croscombe Parish Council website was updated appropriately.

After competitive quotes were sought for grounds maintenance at Croscombe Cemetery, the most cost-effective bid was from the incumbent, Shepton Mallet Landscapes, who were awarded, and accepted, the maintenance contract for the 2024 season. They have offered to continue the contract for another two years at the same price and this will be discussed at the council meeting on 13th February.

New defibrillator pads were procured for the defibrillator at the village hall and passed to the new defibrillator guardian, Louise Tully.

The clerk attended a webinar on insurance, provided by Zurich insurance in conjunction with SALC. Some valuable general information was provided and obtained from the Q&A session, and will inform selection of the council's insurer for 2024-25 in the coming months.

The schedule for meetings of the council in 2024 was defined at the last council meeting. This has been developed and the Church Rooms booked for the appropriate dates. The schedule has been published on the council website. The meetings for 2024 will all be on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 7:00pm, on the following dates:

- 13th February
- 26th March
- 7th May
- 18th June
- 30th July
- 10th September
- 22nd October
- 3rd December

A meeting of the council's Flood & Environment Working Group was held in the George Inn on Thursday, 1st February. It was attended by a number of parishioners, including some affected by the recent flooding and who related their experiences. A report will be developed on the flooding to inform future planning, including being offered to Somerset Council. Four people

volunteered to become actively involved in the FEWG and their appointment will be ratified at the Council meeting on 13th February. The Clerk has posted two flood related reports on the Parish Council website and advertised them on the Parish Council and Croscombe Zummerzet Facebook pages. The same Facebook pages have been used to inform parishioners who were affected by the flooding of the possibility of a government grant to help with recovery. Full details are available on the Somerset Council website at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/beaches-ports-and-flooding/grants-for-flood-recovery-from-storm-henk/>

A comprehensive conversation was held with Traffic Management staff at Somerset Council about the feasibility and cost of changing speed restrictions in and around Croscombe. A report on the conversation has been sent to councillors and will be discussed at the next council meeting.