Cheverell Magna Parish Council

The Council has met twice since the last issue, in December and January. The key issues were:

- Following the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jane Andrew, Formal Notices were published. As no parishioners called for an Election, the Council has co-opted Andy Alexander to the Council. Welcome, Andy ! He's already hard at work on Emergency Planning issues (see the point on First Aid training below).
- The new Community Policing model has been welcomed. This has resulted in an increased Police focus on rural areas like ours, with regular reporting of issues of concern, and a notable increase in speeding checks by uniformed officers (who have the power to hand out Fixed Penalty Notices). So please don't speed through our village – the risk of getting caught has significantly increased !
- The Council is arranging First Aid training for parishioners. This is only likely to take a couple of hours of your time, and will be free (although a formal Certificate can be issued for £35 if this would be useful, eg. for employment purposes). Please indicate your interest to the Clerk, so we can work out how many sessions will be necessary

The issue that will be of most concern to parishioners relates to the 2017/18 Precept, which directly impacts on Council Tax bills. The Council is facing a number of financial pressures, such as increasing insurance costs, grounds maintenance work to keep our village looking neat, and Health & Safety work on the playground. Against that, savings are being made where possible, and the budget is tightly controlled. But an increase is inevitable. So the budget for 2017/18 has been set at £9,374, which is a 6.7% increase on last year (even though we're only spending another £400). However, this only represents an increase of £2.41 a year for the average household, which is less than a pint in The Bell or a good Sunday paper. So hopefully you won't be too annoyed.

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