

### Question 1

*I see agenda 9, "to consider and agree non member volunteers for the following working groups"*

- a. Play Areas Working Group.*
- b. Defibrillator Working Group.*

*According to your own Working groups Terms of Reference (I have cut and pasted from them)*

#### *c. Play Areas Working Group*

- This working group is only open to councillors due to insurance requirements.*
- To undertake any necessary training to ensure that members of the Working Group are compliant within law.*

#### *d. Defibrillator Inspections Working Group*

- This working group is only open to councillors due to insurance requirements.*

*Does the parish councils insurance now cover non council members against being sued and would any non council members be made aware that they could be sued?*

*The Council's insurance does cover volunteers working with the Council.*

*Can you tell me why you have gone against your own policies or show me where they have been updated and voted on.*

*The Council's policies referred to in the question will remain in force except where an exception is agreed by Council. In this instance it is for the Council to decide, when considering item 9, whether the exception will apply in this instance.*

### Question 2

*Hello I have recently had my Wiltshire Council Tax Bill and saw that the annual percentage change for the Parish Council has increased a staggering: 12.8%. Can you advise why this is?*

*The Council's request for precept is actually 8% higher than the previous year, but due to a decrease in the tax-paying population, the actual paid precept by the average Band-D home is 12.82% higher.*

*In previous years the Council has, since drastically reducing the precept from almost twice this level, part funded some of the budget from surplus reserves. In the 2020/21 budget, the Council's operating budget was £58,704, with £10,000 of this being supplemented by reserves to prevent a drastic increase in the precept. The Council's budget for the forthcoming year is £56,433, which is a 3.8% decrease. However, the Council is not in a*

position to continue to cover parts of the precept with its reserves and therefore a decision was taken to increase the precept request to be more in line with the actual operating budget. This increase is equivalent to £3.96 per Band-D house per year, or 76p per week.

The majority of the reserves held by the Council are now attributed to earmarked funds that have conditions attached or represent national guidelines on emergency contingency.

### Question 3

*I have just received my new Council Tax notification. Please can you explain why the Parish proportion has gone up by 12.8% when the other rises are in the region of 5% or 6%? Is there an expensive project planned?*

Please see answer to Question 2.

There are currently no planned expensive projects outside of those already announced. The projects announced for the Village Halls at the February meeting is funded by money held separately from the budget and under conditions of use (which were time limited to be applied by March 2021)