

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November- 7:00pm to 8:45pm**

**Public Consultation Meeting - Future Parish Council Budget Expenditure 2025/2026**

Present: Cllrs: Kim James (Chairman) Rosemary Green, Jan Mclean, Lauren Stanley and 16 members of the public.

Refreshments were provided by Salford Priors Warm Hub & Community Café.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the purpose of the public consultation process. He explained that the aim was to gather the views of residents regarding current and future council spending, as well as the economic challenges that local councils are facing. The Chairman emphasized that the meeting would be informal, and that there were no right or wrong views. He reiterated that the councillors present were there to listen and engage with the residents' feedback.

The Chairman explained the budget process and how the precept was calculated, he then went through the current 2024/25 budget, the councils financial commitments, the role of the council's Finance & Audit Group and the need in law to set a balanced budget.

The Chairman took questions from residents.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to residents:

**Synopsis of Future Budget Items (*Not in any preferential order*).**

CCT Security Camera on TOPs Building

Wi-Fi Hub TOPs Building

Improvements to the Public Right of Way Network

Additional Dog & Waste Bins

Street Lighting Evesham/Station Road

Street Lighting School Road from Park Hall Mews to the Tothall Lane Junction

Better Audio Provision in the Memorial Hall – Can not hear discussion at Council Meetings

Grant for Improvements to the Toilets at the Memorial Hall

Additional Tree Planting around the parish

Community Orchards

Improvements to the Permitted Right of Way opposite the Post Office & Shop School Road

Computer Courses for Residents

Improvement to the verges in School Road affected by the Priors Crescent development

Other matters raised by residents including an accusation by an agitated resident that the Parish Council were advising parishioners on social media (WhatsApp) to walk across private land in Priors Crescent were addressed by the Chairman and an external meeting with the resident was arranged.

On concluding the discussions the Chairman said it had been a most useful meeting and hoped that it gave all those present an insight in how the Parish Council sets its precept and hoe the council sets its spending commitments.

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm.

**Cllr. Kim James**

**November 2024**