

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – January 2022

The County Council has announced that the New Chief Executive for the Authority will be Stephen Moir, he will take over the position in February 2022. As the current Chief Executive retires at the end of December 2021 an Interim appointment has been made to fill the void until the New Chief Executive starts in February 2022. the interim Chief Executive is Amanda Askham

The Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Derek Giles who represents St Neots Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford Division has had to retire as Chairman due to ill health. We all wish him well in his recovery. The Deputy chairman is currently undertaking his duties. A new chairman was supposed to have been elected in December, but this meeting was cancelled and the election of Chairman is not on the January meeting's Agenda.

The Demand Responsive Bus Service for West Huntingdonshire, known as Ting has commenced. It is a service for all residents. The cost of the service is £2 per trip and £4 return as is free for all Bus Pass Holders.

The Council Tax Consultation for the coming year showed that 37% of residents did not support any increase. 25% of residents supported a 2% increase in either Council Tax or Adult Social care but not both, ie a 2 % increase and 21% supported a 2% Council Tax increase and a 1% Social Care increase ie a 3% increase and 4% did not support any option.

However, the Liberal Democrat led Administration have announced they will be going for the maximum increase of 4.99% on Council Tax at the County Council Budget meeting on February 8th. This increase will provide an additional £16.48 million in revenue to the County Council of which the Lib Dem Administration propose to put over 50% into reserves. Simply to tax residents more than is required just to put money in reserves shows that this administration does not care about helping residents at this time, when they are already struggling with much higher fuel bills. It will be interesting to see what the administration says at the Budget meeting.

The County Council has decided to provide everyone on Universal Credit some 39,000 recipients with an additional £20 to help them manage rising costs of living this winter. It will not cover the additional Council Tax increase.

This year's Huntingdonshire LHI meetings will be on 28th February and 2nd March between 8am and 5pm.

The County Council is preparing a Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire

The District Council has been shortlisted for one of Keep Britain Tidy's Annual Network Awards for its efforts in making environment improvements for local residents.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the waste service for maintaining the Dust Bin collection service over the recent surge in Covid, when many local authorities were stopping bin collections.

The District Councils Budget meeting is on the 23rd February.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Spaldwick