

RIVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Residents,

We are writing to notify you of the increase in the annual parish Precept (monies the Parish receives from Chorley Borough Council) for 2024/2025 and the reasons for the increase.

This is a significant increase on last year's Precept. The reason for this is that Rivington Parish Council has always been run on a goodwill basis but with immediate effect we must meet all of our regulatory requirements which includes the hiring of a part-time Parish Clerk for Rivington in order to continue to have our own Parish Council and not be merged with a neighbouring Parish. This requires us to recruit and pay the minimum wage for a part-time Parish Clerk, the major factor in the increased Precept.

We have noticed in meetings with adjacent Parishes that they are not interested with the increasing problems we experience. If we were to merge with them it will become even harder to resolve our ever increasing, local problems, hence the need to make sure our Parish is run correctly, properly funded and able to address these issues.

Rivington Parish Council is attempting to tackle the problems that the increased visitor numbers to Rivington have created, especially since lockdown. Visitors parking with total disregard for local residents. Anti-social behaviour, the destruction of verges and green spaces from parked vehicles, the effective shutdown of Horrobin and Sheepphouse Lanes on nice weather weekends and violence from frustrated drivers are all on the rise. As is, speeding through Lever Park and the village.

We have built new relationships with United Utilities and local businesses and are working with local Councillors and Highways to implement solutions. Recent successes of these relationships include preventing unauthorised events / glamping that would have been implemented without the Council's intervention.

Following the budget planning meeting in November '23, please note below the main costs that were submitted and approved by Chorley Finance Department on 29/02/24.

As stated at the outset, we must recruit and pay the minimum wage for a part-time Parish Clerk, the major factor in the increased Precept. The Clerk's future salary is based on the 2024 mandatory, minimum hourly Clerk rate of £12.62 per hour plus NI contributions. £12.62 per hour at five hours per week equates to £3,281.20 pa. The Clerk will also receive £312 pa for home working as the Council does not have premises to work out of.

Meeting room rental, audit fee, office supplies, website, banking, events including remembrance and Christmas costs £3,480

Village insurance cost £408 pa.

Village greens – grass cutting £600 pa, increased by 10% for 24/25 tax year

Village maintenance cost £1,200 – flowers and planting of, plus tubs. Litter bins. Stone walling requires repair. Once the walling has been fixed the cost should be reduced for 25/26 tax year.

We are always looking for new councillors to get involved with the Parish. If you are interested then please get involved. Rivington Parish Council meetings are now advertised on our website, all minutes of meetings are now also published – see www.rivingtonpc.org.uk. All residents are welcome to attend every meeting. A new website will be created this year which will make it much easier for residents to submit any views and questions.

Kind regards
Rivington Parish Council
25/03/24