

FINEDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Julia Tufnail **Office Hours:** Monday-Friday Mornings
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Your Councillors:

Ray Ogle, **Chairman**

Laurence Harper, **Vice Chairman**

Malcolm Ward, also **WBC**

Sally Farrell

Gordon Swann

Andrew Weatherill

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Finedon Parish Council Budget 2018-19

You will have seen by now that Finedon Parish Council has raised its precept this year to £64,000. The following will help you to understand why the Council took the decision to raise the precept.

As you will be aware, the NCC budget has caused much interest in the press and that one of their cost cutting proposals was to shut many libraries. It seems, but the detail is not clear yet, that NCC will not be closing all their libraries as they have a statutory duty to provide them. However, they are proposing to close the smaller libraries, Finedon being one of them.

When the library closures were first suggested, Finedon Parish Council took the decision to agree in principle to support the Library which would be run in some form by Friends of Finedon Library, should the library close. This was following representation from residents. It was agreed by the Council that a grant (£7,600) should be put into the budget to facilitate this. The net overall increase in the precept (£7,431) is directly related to this with some small savings being made elsewhere. It is the responsibility of the Council to take into account any likely expenditure for the coming year in its budget when it is set. This is what the Council has done.

The Library is considered by the Council to be an important community facility which should remain within the community. It must be remembered however, that the Council does not have any powers to run a Library and so cannot not take responsibility for it.

The bad weather forced the cancellation of the Parish Council meeting on 28th February. The March meeting on the 28th will go ahead as planned, see website for Agenda and details. Finedon Parish Council also has a twitter feed if you would like to follow us. It contains information from the Police, Highways and NCC amongst others so please use it. To get any information out residents urgently, I place them on the front page of the website and on our twitter feed, so please take a look www.finedonparishcouncil.gov.uk and [@FinedonCouncil](https://twitter.com/FinedonCouncil).

By now the Tainty Field railings project should be complete. We were successful in our bid for a grant from WBC and they have promised us 50% of the project costs. We are obviously, very grateful to them for this assistance. Thank you also to all the residents in Avenue Road for keeping the verge clear during the work.

Now that the tree maintenance is complete in the village, I feel that there should be a mechanism to replace some of the diseased trees that had to been taken down. I am wondering if residents be interested in buying a tree that would represent something special to them and plant it either on the Green or in Banks Park. Our tree surgeon has agreed to set up a list of suitable trees that can be purchased independently by residents and he would plant them. I'm thinking that it would be sensible then to number all the trees on the Green and in Banks Park and have an information board to display their type and, if purchased specially, the reason for their purchase (weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, births or remembrance to name but a few possible reasons). Please let me know your thoughts on this so I can take the idea to Council. I think this could both rejuvenate our open spaces in the village and give them revitalised place within the community. I look forward to hearing from you.

As usual, please feel free to contact me should you have anything you wish to bring to the Council's attention. Providing it is within the Council's remit, we will try our best to make Finedon a better place to live.

Julia Tufnail

Clerk, Finedon Parish Council