**NOTES TO APPROVED BUDGET 2021/22**

The precept has remained virtually unchanged between 2012/13 (£7198) and 2019/20 (£7643); in fact it was reduced between 2013/14 and 2016/17. The increase in the current year meant that the annual rate of increase since 2009/10 was 2.97% which has not even kept up with inflation at 3.53%.

Add to that the very significant areas of land which the Parish Council owns and which require constant maintenance, some of which is only now becoming apparent, and the projections show that without some positive action the Parish Council would very soon run out of cash.

The current year budget shows a deficit of £6922 which we believe we will come in under (at £4712). Projected expenditure next year is £24726 so it was clear that a significant increase in the precept was necessary. Even with the precept increased to £12000 next year, expenditure will exceed income by £11570; clearly that trend cannot continue for long.

In the current year we have had to spend £4500 on tree work and with the current problem of Ash die back we may very well have major expenditure to deal with that – we have allocated a further £5000.

The grant we receive for the Stewardship of The Meend is reduced by £2400 next year and that is the final payment due; but of course, maintenance will be ongoing and from our own resources.

The road across The Meend is in desperate need of repair; we have quotes for c.£14000 for that work and have allocated £7000 in next years budget to start that work. We hope to receive a contribution towards the cost either in cash or materials but nothing has yet been agreed.

Councillors have also felt it prudent to earmark £1000 to fight any expansion of Stowfield quarry which is likely at some future time, and also make provision for the cost of the next Parish Council election in 2023.