

## **Clerks WSALC online meeting 13 October-Debbie's notes (30 Clerk Attendees).**

### **Warm Spaces**

Q -Are any Parish Councils doing anything?

A- General feedback was that Parishes are researching what is being offered in their parish to establish how they can support it, rather than host themselves which for most is not possible. i.e help with heating/refreshment costs.

### **Emergency Resilience Plans**

Q -Do any Parish Councils have an active plan?

Advice was to test it out regularly to ensure contact numbers etc are up to date.

A consultant is available from WSALC at a cost of £50 p.hr (usually 5 hours are sufficient).

Parish Councils are only expected to provide support to the existing emergency services, not be trying to replace them.

### **Clerk salaries/appraisals**

Advice was to value your Clerks and pay them a fair wage according to the demands of the job, advice was if you have a good Clerk hold on to them as it will cost you more in the long run if you don't.

Advice was to ensure they have a NALC model-based contract, and it is good practice to have annual appraisals with set targets.

### **Virtual Police Briefings**

Q -Are any Parish Councils not attending?

Advice was to let them know if they need to be added to the invite lists.

### **Elections**

Work is in progress on guidance for Parish Councils and Clerks will receive these shortly. Training courses for Clerks will also be available. Potential candidates are required to have their nominations in to the District Council by April.

### **Precept increases -quote £ not %**

Directive from WSALC -Parish Councils are to move away from the fixation of quoting percentages and quote in £s. Leave % to District Council. District Council issue Council tax bills mid-March.

Precept increases should not be viewed as an issue, Parish Councils offer a valuable service and to achieve this ongoing it is often necessary to increase the precept.

### **Members Allowances**

District Council set amount is advisory only, not compulsory.

Co-opted members legally still cannot receive Members Allowance. Parish Councils do not have the powers/authority to change this, only top government.

### **Promoting for new Councillors**

Waverley in Surrey have done a video to promote the role of a Parish Councillor and encourage applications which some may find useful.