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Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council North Yorkshire

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Mrs Angela Evans,
Department of Resources,
Harrogate Borough Council,
Crescent Gardens,
Harrogate,
HG1 2SG

1st December 2008

Dear Mrs Evans,

Parish Precept Calculation 2009/2010

I write to explain why the Parish Council has submitted the enclosed Precept, which is a large increase on previous years.

The Parish Council is the owner of the Village Hall, a 100+ year old ex-Primary School. Under current legislation the Parish Council is obliged to make the building accessible to the disabled and keep it in a reasonable state of repair for Health & Safety reasons.

Major capital works are planned, which will require Borrowing Approval and a Loan from the PWLB but works to repair/maintain the building in the short term are going to require large expenditure. For example, recently it has become known that there is damp penetration to the building, which has caused the floor, joists and walls to rot. This needs emergency repair. Also the windows have to be repaired before the winter weather is upon us, to keep the building warm and weather-proof and this also cannot be left to a later date.

Grants are being applied for but, in these uncertain times, cannot be relied upon.

It is hoped it will be possible to reduce the Precept in subsequent years as major works could be covered by a Loan, but, as this is not in place yet, the Council has to act responsibly to be able to cover estimated expenditure, contingencies and provision for adequate Parish Funds. The Council also has to be prepared for unforeseen events and expenditure in the early part of 2010/2011.

Should you wish to have more information, please contact me on the above e mail address or by telephone on 01423 358315.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G M Firth
Clerk to the Council