**Hinton Parish Council Precept 2024-2025**

In a recent meeting of the local Parish Council, discussions centred around the precept, setting and aims at addressing both the community's needs and the responsible management of resources. Among the key points of contention were the proposed purchase of a new laptop, an extensive job evaluation conducted on the banding of the clerk, (While this move could contribute to an increase in the precept, it is the council's commitment to fair employment practices) and a commitment to biodiversity duty. The aging of the park and the outdated equipment were highlighted as critical concerns. Some park facilities, including play structures and amenities, have been in use for over 20 years, resulting in increased maintenance costs. The Council members emphasized the need to address this issue proactively to ensure the safety and enjoyment of residents while acknowledging that neglecting these matters could lead to more significant expenses in the future.

Notably, council members deliberated on utilizing predicted income to mitigate the impact on the precept.

In a pivotal decision, members voted to increase the precept for the upcoming financial year 2024-2025 by £5000.00. This adjustment, while reflecting the council's dedication to meeting evolving community needs, translates to a Band D figure of £117.77 an increase of £10.00, signalling a conscientious effort to balance financial responsibility.

The decision to raise the precept was not taken lightly. Council members deliberated extensively, recognizing the financial constraints faced by residents and the imperative to strike a balance between addressing immediate concerns and planning for the future.