

# ***Update for Melksham Area Board***

**FROM: MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 7 February 2018

## **HEADLINES**

### **Setting of Precept/Budget 2018/19:**

At a Town Council meeting on 15 January 2018 Councillors set the budget for 2018/19.

The budget will add 49p per week to the Band D precept charge and includes provision to appoint two ground maintenance staff, as well as a Community Engagement Facilitator to develop the Town Team initiative and bring it to fruition.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

As the Town Council are in the process of negotiating with Wiltshire Council to take over responsibility for grass cutting, including King George V Park and the cemetery, it was agreed to appoint 2 new Town Wardens to be responsible for maintaining a high standard of groundsmanship and horticulture within the town, as well as providing support and assistance to the caretaking team in terms of maintenance and streetscene activities, thereby enhancing the profile of the Town Council and of Melksham generally.

### **Former George Ward Playing Fields**

Both Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are currently working on a joint initiative to develop the former George Ward playing fields as a community recreational area.

Councillors acknowledged that this initiative provided an excellent opportunity for Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Councils to work together to create a recreational and amenity space that would benefit and could be enjoyed by members of both communities.

### **WW1 Tree Commemoration**

As part of the Community Tree Commemoration Project to recognise 100 years since the ending of World War I, the Town Council are supporting the planting of 200 trees via the Woodland Trust WW1 Tree Planting Commemoration Project in the former George Ward playing fields as an ongoing memorial to those who had fallen in the service of their Country during World War I.

### **War Memorial Repairs**

Following concerns that the war memorial is in need of repair, the Town Council had agreed to appoint a stone mason to undertake restoration work at a cost of £1840.

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## **Remembrance Day – Sunday 11 November 2018**

As this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War ending and the 11 November falls on a Sunday, Councillors agreed that to hold a special luncheon on Remembrance Day in the Assembly Hall and to hold an exhibition of those affected by the war locally over Remembrance weekend.

## **Making Melksham a Dementia Friendly Community**

At a recent meeting the Town Council agreed to become a member of the Melksham Community Area Dementia Alliance. Staff in both the Assembly Hall and Town Hall have been encouraged to attend Dementia Friends sessions held locally.

## **FORTHCOMING DATES**

2 March	Mayor Reception
27 April	Twinning Reception