

FINANCIAL REPORT

Parish Assembly 2019

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to say that the two working groups dealing with finance have continued to monitor and control the expenditure of the Council. First of all, the Organisation and Finance group, which meets every month, a week before the Parish Council meeting, monitors the Income and Expenditure report for the previous month and examines proposals for further expenditure. They report to the Parish Council meeting and make recommendations. It is through their continued liaison with the finance staff that a tight rein has been kept on expenditure this year. They also look at tenders for work in the village and make recommendations to the main Council meeting. Once again, I am pleased to announce that, due to the hard work of our finance staff, the audit was passed with only a few minor procedural comments. If you look at the grand totals at the bottom of the second page, you will see that we met our budget with only an underspend of £548. There is another column that might puzzle some of you because you will see that we had quite an increase in our income that was not budgeted for and thus leaves us with an excess of income of over £14000. This is mainly due to money coming in for section 106 projects that is,

in fact, earmarked for these projects and will be spent on them as they come to fruition.

In addition, you will see that there is quite a list of earmarked reserves. This is something that I started three years ago in which we began to make savings for expenditure that we knew would come up in the future, like the money for elections and Church Clock repairs and also for other unexpected expenditure such as new office equipment. We have, for example, been saving £300 per year to pay for the elections which we expected to cost us somewhere between 12 and 15 hundred pounds. As there won't be an election, we are already looking to re-allocate this money to something else, possibly towards the improvements in office IT. But, we will continue to save £300 per year for the next elections and similar sums for future contingencies.

The other finance group is the Village Project Working Group that is run by Cllr Chris Hand and they have again been working extremely hard during the past year to liaise with both organisations in the village and the Vale of the White Horse to identify projects that would benefit the village that might be funded from Section 106 moneys. They have had some success in this but have recently been struggling with some of the new Vale bureaucracy that has been introduced to monitor money from

developers. They continue to liaise with our two District Councillors and Vale staff and I trust that the present difficulties will be ironed out and that we will be able to use all of the money allocated to this village to mitigate the effects of the major developments that we have had to put up with. I would like to thank Chris and his team for all their hard work this year.

GENERAL FUND

I would just like to comment on the last page of the accounts that cover the balance sheet and the current assets and liabilities.

Firstly, you can see that our reserves are in a healthy state at £88,058. Whilst some might think that this is somewhat high, our auditors have recommended that we keep it at this level especially as we have financial responsibility for the Viscountess Barrington's Trust including this wonderful hall and the recreational grounds outside, the village cemetery and the allotments as well as village maintenance to take care of. You will also see that it is actually only £55,867 because £32,191 have already been earmarked for such things as £16000 for the new playground, £6,000 for the initial expenses for planning the Pavilion plus the various earmarked reserves I've already mentioned. Nevertheless, we end this current four year session of this Council in a healthy financial state.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS I WILL BE PLEASED TO
ANSWER THEM.**

**Report to Parish Assembly on 24th April 2019 by Councillor
with Special Responsibilities for the Environment - John Lloyd – April
2019**

To start with it is good to recognise some positive volunteer work that improves the aspect:

- WI Clippers, both footpaths and litter
- A group that meets in Coppidthorne Meadow and litter picks
- A lady who has regularly litter picked on Townsend Road to Bourton Wharf and other areas for many years
- The Berks & Wilts Canal Group keep our towpaths open
- Pump Island Gardening Club flower bed and Rotary Club's Purple4Polio crocuses
- There will be others

Litter:

34 volunteers supported this year's annual litter pick earlier in the month – a record. Numbers included 4 x CONMED employees and two young teenagers. Part of Keep Britain Tidy this year, the result was 30 bags, 4 tyres and a large box of electrical items – clearly fly tipped. Earlier in the year generous donations from the Fete Committee and the NEWS allowed for pickers and vests to be purchased. Whilst some have been distributed to recognised groups, others have been or shortly will be given to those who have volunteered to 'adopt a road', mainly the entrance roads to the village, and will take care of these on a regular basis during the next 12 months.

Allotments:

Delighted to say that 97/99 are occupied, two are not fit for purpose and await a proper make over by a contractor. Just a few could be better managed by the tenants. We do have periodic inspections when appropriate action is taken. One is taken on by CONMED, took part in the litter pick, to grow produce for Swindon Night Shelter and another, following the Sustainable Living event in the hall – basically a group of individuals share a plot.

Defibrillator: 30 mths now and TY to volunteers (x 30) who carry out the daily and monthly checks. Successful in applying for grant from Scottish and Southern Electricity and with an addition from parish council funds a second will temporarily be placed in the old phone box at the entrance of Stallpits Lane before moving to the new sports pavilion.

Tree Survey:

This was completed late last year and trees on parish and trust land are now plotted on a digital map. This will allow better management in the future. A budget for this is set each year. Last year we concentrated on the cemetery and this year it will be around the village pump and the small garage opposite.

Community Emergency Plan:

This was approved by OCC in June last year. I need to have it refreshed shortly and will be asking for more help from the village. We had a presentation based on how to prepare for an emergency in the home and in the community, and I plan to repeat this later in the year.

There are some leaflets at the rear that you may wish to take with you.

My dream – Coppidthorne (wildflower) Meadow. First cowslips now evident in three areas, as is yellow rattle and many more better established, particularly scabious. All helps to attract insects.

Any questions?

John Lloyd

24th April 2019

Significant Matters dealt with by VBT in the last year

- Installation of new boilers
- New playground equipment
- Sports Pavilion
- Hosted Beer Festival run by FB club
- Sports Festival

Other matters dealt with

- Installation of portrait of Viscountess Barrington by WI
- Track across the recreation ground
- Installation of fire safety doors in Vic Day corridor
- Rewiring, incl. earth bonding– still working on this.
- Were unsuccessful in our application for a Garfield Weston Grant for new kitchens
- Trees by the shooting club
- New curtains in Chestnut room
- New notice board in main lobby
- Review of outside lighting
- New door plaques
- Hall deep clean & ongoing cleaning programme + new cleaner
- New speakers following damage to the previous set
- H&S policy completed (Lewie is H&S officer)

Shrivenham Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting 24th May 2019

Clerk's Notes

Questions asked:

1. Q. When will the NP referendum take place? A. Hopefully between Autumn and the end of the year.
2. Q. What has been done regarding all the burglaries in the village? Could we have CCTV in the High Street? A. The Police stated that CCTV in the High Street would not be effective in deterring burglars who are targeting residential properties.
3. Q. How will the A420 cope with all the additional new houses? A. Refer to Cllr Constance's comments below.
4. Q. Will Speedwatch really help prevent speeding in the High Street? A. It has been shown to be effective in other areas.
5. Q. What will the impact of the Honda closure be on the village. A. This is not known at this time.
6. Q. What is the future for the Tuckmills Nature Reserve? A. Earth Trust have put forward a proposal to the Vale for the management of the site.
7. There is a lot of litter at the bottom of Stainswick Lane. This is a persistent problem. Requested notices regarding litter and fly tipping. Would also like to set up a 'litter watch'. EW suggested reporting it as fly tipping to the Vale. EW and DJ to meet and discuss options. It was noted that the police regularly patrol Stainswick Lane.
8. Q. Who is responsible for the damaged street light on the junction of Highworth Road and the High Street? A. Lee Turner is dealing with this.
9. Permissive paths. Land owner should be thanked for allowing use of his land. Residents should respect his generosity by clearing up after their dogs and not dropping litter.
10. Q. How does the PC know that it is responsible for the Church Clock? A. Legislation gives Parish Councils the power to provide public clocks (Parish Councils Act, s2).

Report for Cllr Constance:

- OCC has received a government grant of £150m to upgrade infrastructure; this is dependent on the development of 100,000 houses in the County.
- A grant of £218m has been received for infrastructure to support Didcot Garden Town.
- OCC has submitted a bid for £102m for the A40.
- Oxfordshire is the heart of Science UK and will see the development of 85,000 new jobs, but also major development.
- £150m has been allocated for flood alleviation for Oxford.
- The East-West railway is being discussed. It will run from Bicester to Bletchley.
- The Oxford-Cambridge expressway is at the evidence gathering stage.
- The proposed reservoir at Steventon is very large, but the water it will hold will not be for local use. OCC has called for a public enquiry.

- A420 – This road had a whole chapter in LTP4; this is being updated for LTP5. The A420 is a local road not a strategic route. It needs safety islands, crossings and bus stops. It is hoped that there will be more local park and ride facilities. The solution to congestion will be bus use. The Oxford-Cambridge expressway is likely to affect it.
- S6 bus route – this now runs 4 services per hour. This route is being used as a model throughout the county.
- Oxford city is to become a zero emissions zone.
- The Majors Road junction at Longcot is to be improved.
- OCC is in the top 10 for pothole repairs in the country.
- A large amount (52%) of the OCC budget is spent on social care.
- Q. What is happening about the new school on the Highworth Road site? A. This is awaiting the sign off of two reports. YC agreed to chase this.
- Q. Could a new local train service be introduced? This would be more usable than buses. A. OCC's dream is to re-open the local line to Bristol, but this not likely to happen in the foreseeable future.

PC Tom Pryor's Report

- The team consists of two Police Officers (PC Pryor and PC Goodenough) and five PCSOs.
- There has been an issue with the type of device to be used. Guidance has been given on this. The scheme does work as it discourages speeding. It also takes the pressure off the police.
- CCTV in the High Street will not work. The best thing is CCTV on the home.
- Suggests that people sign up for Thames Valley Alerts which sends out all sorts of useful information.
- PC Pryor is aware of the issues with the A420.
- Burglaries: Shrivenham has been hit hard, however there has been an increase in the whole area. The Police are out there, even if they are not visible. Investigations are ongoing. Any information from the public is very helpful.
- Q. Bogus/silent telephone calls – are these being used to target houses? A. The police have not heard of a link.