

## **Appledore Parish Council Financial Report End of Year Review 2019 to 2020**

From a financial view point the parish council has this year been most active in succeeding to bring to fruition Highways improvements. The parish council has completed the investigatory stages and the implementation of the speed reduction scheme and rationalisation of signage. This has led to expenditure from the £30,000 ring fenced for the project. The speed reduction scheme and rationalisation of signage is still being implemented. The cost so far is £10,762 leaving £19,238.

Separately, the council budgeted expenditure of £30,880 and remained within budget with total spending of £ 28,126.

The cost of running the council remained within budget. The parish council amended it's recording of salary allowances and included these within staff salaries to comply with data protection requirements. These allowances are not income so to speak as they cover the cost of the council having a home office. This has resulted in a fall in administration costs whilst yearly staff salaries has exceeded budget. Otherwise, it should be noted that the council has seen small increases to running costs across all areas except for training. The budget for solicitors was not used at all.

The cost of managing the public toilets also remained within budget. The water supply exceeded predicted costs because of the accidental closure, by suppliers, of the accounts, resulting in overpayment, upon reopening of the account. This could not be resolved because of COVID 19 social distancing measures and the water supplier's decision to suspend meter reading. Some money is to be refunded and all the late payment charges have been cancelled. Similarly, the installation of a modern electric meter is cancelled due to COVID 19. Vandalism of the ladies' toilets cost £330 of the maintenance budget. The urgency of maintenance of the toilets' internal furnishing grows every year while we wait for the planning application for the council field to go through. If the application fails, I would recommend that the council takes out a Public Works Loan to carry out a complete overhaul of the premises, in the 2021 – 2022 financial year. The move to buying cleaning products off the shelf as opposed to from Kent Commercial Services continues to save money.

There was no expenditure on street cleaning supplies, grass cutting of the council field nor minor highways works, whilst £330 was invoiced to repair the telephone kiosk door. The donations budget went to Friends of Appledore Station £400 and £500 to Appledore Parish Magazine. Christmas festivities for the village only used £117 of contingency money (£50 donation from the Black Lion for Christmas festivities). There is some outstanding expenditure: road sign cleaning £150 and cork boards for the noticeboards £150.

All income was collected including a vat reclaim for the year from HMRC: total income for the year being £31,000, whilst £29,335 was estimated.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the bank balances (considering unrepresented cheques but not

unpresented invoices) stood at £28,838.46. Money ring fenced for highways improvement schemes being £19,238 and the remainder £9,600. Considering that the hall grant repayments for 2020- 2021 are £5,048.75 (final payment), the council reserve should increase from £8,000 to just over £10,000. In light of this it should be noted that all underspending has gone (under virement allowed in the financial regulations) towards maintaining the council reserve.