

## Appledore Parish Council First Quarter Financial Report 2020-2021

Taking into consideration unpresented payments but not unpresented invoices. as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the bank account stood at £34,246.77. This quarter has been defined by the COVID-19 pandemic. The council functioned under delegation to the Clerk along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Total Income (receipts) for the period £14,323.81.

The council received 50% of its precept (its share of the council tax) being £13,000. The council also receives two small annual grants.

First the council tax support grant originating from central government, a share of which is handed out from the county council to the borough council and then in turn to parish councils. Although central government is no longer assisting with the financial impact of ceasing to refund the cost of discounts on council tax, parish councils in Ashford continue to receive a grant in relation to this.

The other concurrent function grant is for carrying out a service on behalf of the borough council such as grass cutting and litter picking. These are paid in two equal instalments. In April the parish council received £421 council tax support grant and £525 concurrent function grant. The other instalment for these will be in September.

A Feed in Tariff Payment is usually received each quarter from EDF for the solar panels on the village hall. Covid-19 travel restrictions meant no reading could be taken however a catch-up payment for energy produced will be made when the next quarter's reading is taken.

Interest paid on the bank account is small and will be reducing to pennies as the interest rate has been drastically cut this month.

Some of the monies owed from the public convenience water and waste accounts being erroneously closed down by Business Stream has been returned.

The short closure of the public toilets has reduced the amount of donations received. Only one deposit was made in this quarter as Tenterden NatWest Bank is no longer accepting cash deposits at the teller. I am currently registering for Business Quick Deposit.

The council's efforts to set up an account with Lloyds Bank to provide online banking with effective safety measures has stalled with Lloyds moving personnel to cover banking issues for the vulnerable. Lloyds has still not reinstated the opening of new accounts.

As the parish council depends solely on the tax paid by residents, the council's financial position is unaffected by the pandemic.

Total Expenditure (payments) for the period £8,915.42

Although the council did not meet, council employees continued to work as per normal. After 7 years of over use the Clerk's printer finally died and a new more suitable one for a small office was acquired with the cost being equally shared between Appledore, Iden and Pett Parish Councils, £76 each.

Whilst the toilets were closed to the public, they were made available to key workers and street cleansing continued as normal. No small jobs could be dealt with during lockdown so expenditure is mainly salaries and public convenience service bills.

Councillor Jenkins, in an independent capacity, ran the COVID-19 buddy scheme for Appledore and the council assisted with publicising this by means of a flyer distributed to every household in the parish. Thanks to all those who helped out and continue to do so. The cost of the flyer being a very small contribution.

The progress of the planning application for a residential development on the ex-council field, through Ashford Borough Council as Appledore's local planning authority is incredibly slow. Fortunately, all costs and the additional costs resulting from the delay are borne by the developer Martello.

The last payment of £5,048.75 was made to the Public Works Loan Board for the grant to the village hall.

With the relaxation of lockdown, the council assisted with the drop-in sessions on the Court Lodge Residential Enabling Car Park producing and delivering the flyer to all homes, the cost of which Court Developments Limited offered to cover.

There has been no further expenditure on Highways Improvements Scheme so the ring-fenced amount remains at £19,238.

Finally, the outstanding invoices from the previous years of about £300 are still to be presented.