

Appledore Parish Council Financial Report for year ending 31st March 2016

Income

Income of £ 32,703 had been anticipated but actually received £29,819 plus a grant and the repayment of a loan. The difference was due to the removal of the street cleaning grant and recycling credits totalling £2,400 and slightly larger reductions than expected, in council tax support and the concurrent grant. A total shortfall of £2,884 less than budgeted. The repayment of the short loan to the history society was appreciated and the successful application for a further grant from KCC Cllr Members grant of £1388.50 meant the second set of verge posts were bought and installed at no cost to the parish council. It should be noted that the money received from the concurrent grant and council tax support grant will not go on forever and will continue to be smaller each year leaving the council with the only income being the precept itself. As first expected last year, there could be no council tax support grant for 2017 – 2018.

Expenditure

Expenditure of £ 29,125.47 was anticipated but actual spending was greater at £33,927.09 and if you include sums of money allocated but not yet spent £ 37,057.09.

With the lack of candidates for the election of a new council in May 2015, the implementation of new laws on pensions and a new parish clerk, there has been a significant amount of change to the council. Although it may have taken until January 2016 to have a full council, no election costs had to be paid as councillors were co-opted or elected uncontested. However, the new team has required training to get to grips with their new roles. The new pension law real time declaration requirements meant the payroll charges were doubled. A new clerk, with more paid hours per week, has meant the provision of office equipment and costs and some training. Some of these costs will not reoccur in the next financial year.

The village hall loan continues to be paid off and will run until 2020. The loan is now down to £45,000.

The public conveniences were expected to require £4,000 and but for the voluntary cover of the cleaner who left in September 2015, this amount would have been exceeded by £1,000, whilst as it is, the costs came in at £2,906.91. Cllr Hennig who has been cleaning the lavatories, has suggested various uses to which the saved money could be put but this would have to be finalised by a council vote.

The cost of Street Cleansing came in close to predictions.

Whilst there was no budget for maintenance to general assets in the charge of the council some £1500 has been spent or allocated to be spent here.

The parish council has a history of financially supporting local voluntary associations, providing grants and donations as budgeted. However, the grant to the village hall towards a new pair of emergency doors had not been planned for. The end result being that the council's expenditure exceeded the council's income by £4,802.

Overview

In the two previous financial years the parish council's expenditure though close to the sum taken as precept, concurrent grant and council tax support grant together, it was significantly less than its total income. However, for the financial year just ended, the total expenditure has exceeded its total income. The budget for next year, concluded from considered costs, proposes expenditure in excess of its expected income, by £2,500. The council is fortunate to be holding, with no specific allocation to any particular scheme approx. £ 35,000, of which prudence would suggest a reserve £10,000. The recommended practice is to hold 40/50% of expenditure/precept (not including loan payments).

With the turn towards government at grassroots and local services being funded by local residents, Appledore Parish Council does have funds to allow it to take action to benefit its parishioners.