

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Review of Accounts for 2016-17

The balance at the end of the year was just under £21,000 compared to £19,000 at the end of the last financial year. This includes funds set aside (our allocated reserves) for the 2016-17 highways improvement scheme to introduce speed limits on the Newmarket Road and on Bourn Bridge Road, youth initiatives and for rationalisation and electronic archiving of the vast number of documents, some dating back to the 1950s, that the Parish Council has. There are still some S106 funds intended to improve community facilities. The Institute Management Committee and the Recreation Ground Committee seem to have identified suitable projects.

As usual more than half of the parish council's costs are for employing the Clerk, village maintenance, footway lighting and our contribution towards the cost of the Recreation Ground. Expenditure was a little below plan mainly because the costs of village maintenance were lower than expected. Significant items of expenditure were a grant towards the cost of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the purchase of a new laptop and associated software. The cost of footway lighting looks high because as well as paying for 2016-17 costs we paid the invoice for lighting in 2015/16. The parish council has continued to contribute towards the cost of community projects. This includes contributing towards the Parish Nurse scheme more of this later on the agenda, the Bobby Scheme for victims of crime and a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

Income is higher than plan because we were fortunate to receive a larger grant than expected for verge cutting on the A1307 and, in line with good practice, the Parish Council has started to claim a VAT refund at mid-year.

As usual the accounts are subject to audit. The draft accounts were agreed by the parish council this evening. They are subject to review by the internal auditor and they will be reported to the Audit Commission in June. Last year we received a qualified audit because in preparation for market testing for insurance the parish council revalued its assets. The external auditor considered this was not in line with agreed practice.

I mentioned the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and the Council Award Scheme in my report last year. LAPC submitted its application for Foundation status some months ago. We are awaiting judgement. Accreditation will provide formal confirmation that LAPC continues to follow good practice guidelines and that it is compliant with the statutory requirements of the Code.

Genevieve Dalton
Clerk to Little Abington Parish Council/Responsible Financial Officer