

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Report 2017-18

The financial balance at the end of the year was just under £24,000 compared to £20,000 last financial year. This includes funds set aside (our allocated reserves) of almost £10,000 for traffic and road safety improvement measures, youth initiatives, rationalisation and electronic archiving of the vast number of documents held by the Parish Council as well as preparation for the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that come into effect in May. There are still some S106 funds (£1087) intended to improve community facilities. Requests from the Institute Management Committee and the Recreation Ground Committee are awaited.

Expenditure was close to plan. As usual more than half of the Parish Council's costs are for employing the Clerk, village maintenance and a grant to the Recreation Ground Committee. LAPC has continued to contribute towards the cost of community projects including the Parish Nurse and the Bobby Scheme for victims of crime. We have not been invoiced for the costs of footway lighting this year. One unexpected cost was for repairs to the bus shelter on the Linton side of Cambridge Road. This was partially offset by a successful insurance claim.

Although the audit regime has changed, the accounts and governance /risk management processes are still subject to external review through an audit process similar to the previous arrangements with the Audit Commission. The annual return will be submitted in June. The draft accounts were agreed by the parish council this evening. Last year we received an unqualified audit.

In the coming year there will be some income from sharing the Speedwatch equipment with Ickleton parish council. We will be market testing for insurance and for village maintenance. The Parish Council has worked with CGM for some years now and I know that some residents have been unhappy with maintenance. There may be opportunities to work with a different contractor or to consider a different approach that provides more opportunity for local input.

The Parish Council's precept for 2018-19, which is paid by householders through Council Tax, has risen to nearly £17,000 which is about £65.00 a year for a band D property. We hold a significant level of reserves that had not been earmarked for specific priorities. Although some needs to be held for contingencies, it could be used on local projects to benefit the community. Suggestions from residents on priorities would be welcome.

Genevieve Dalton
Clerk to Little Abington Parish Council/Responsible Financial Officer
April 2018