

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

28 March 2014

The financial affairs of the Parish Council continue to be in sound order. Expenditure was well within budget representing 62% of the original budget estimate excluding the contingency sum. Income in 2013-14 at Worth Matravers car park although close to budget has fallen from 2011/12 due to the exceptionally wet weather during the year. The Harmans Cross car park although now heavily used at times for events at HXVH operates at near break-even between costs and income.

Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been held following the successful retendering in 2012 for a three year period to 2015. The Begbie Orchard came to fruition in March 2013 with most trees now planted and established with stakes and ties. There are a few outstanding or replacement trees required special orders before donations will be sought.

Purbeck District Council from October 2013 cut back over three years their existing financial commitment to maintain the Worth public toilets. These costs currently some £6900 per annum have been progressively built into the Parish Council budget for 2013/15 and future years. A new Toilet Cleansing contractor was appointed in 2013. After consideration of the high tendered costs it was agreed to clean the toilets once a day with a special extended weekly clean. These frequencies will be reviewed during the summer months of 2014. Examination of the regulations has confirmed that WM Disabled toilets are exempt from council tax and this amendment reducing the 2010 rateable value of Worth Car Park and Premises by £700 was agreed in March 2014 by the Valuation Office. A three year fixed price contract for power supplies to the WM toilets has been entered into with N Power.

The warm winter weather meant that little or no salt was used and no significant expenditure on refills arose as a result. The PC has increased its donations to the two village halls.

All accounts were consolidated in one Santander current account which does not pay interest. The Nat West bond expired during the year and was not re offered so no interest is budgeted for 2014-15. Interest rates will be monitored as reserves have increased. The current deposit rate of 0.5% equates to a maximum of £250 per annum in interest and a better rate fixed term bond may be appropriate once the level of reserves is agreed by the PC in 2014. The VAT reimbursement income was above budget due to the main cleansing contract attracting VAT.

The annual and local audits were completed and submitted without any external requests for access to the accounts and the results of the audit published as required by statute. The financial reconciliation of the WMPC accounts is reported to the PC on a monthly basis as recommended by the Internal Auditor. The Council reviewed its reserves and future income and expenditure for 2014-15 and decide to set the annual precept at a rate of £NIL.

Roger Khanna WMPC RFO