

## **WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**7 APRIL 2015**

The financial affairs of the Parish Council continue to be in sound order. Expenditure was within budget representing 95% of the original budget estimate. Income in 2014-15 from the suggested donation at Worth Matravers car has been maintained above budget on a rolling 12 month period whilst the Harmans Cross car park is at break-even between costs and income. Following a successful appeal to the District Valuer the Council tax levied on the two car parks and the WM toilet block was reduced and a reimbursement of £2511 was received. The Bank Statement has been formally Reconciled against the 2014 – 15 Budget and the Cash Book records each month.

Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been increased due to the major cut back at the Withy Bed and additional one off work on the Begbie Bank approach to Worth Matravers Village Centre. This removed the overgrowing shrubs and brambles and subsequently top soil and seed for mowing was provided . All contracts are currently being retendered for a three year period to 2018.

Purbeck District Council has cut back over three years their financial commitment to maintain the Worth public toilets and there will be one last grant of £1724 for 2015-16 . This expenditure will have to be built into the Parish Council budget for 2016-7..The mild winter weather meant that the salt was not used from the two grit bins supplied by the PC on Haycrafts Lane.

The overnight thefts and damage to the donation box and stone pillar on two occasions at the Worth Matravers car park and once at the HX car park resulted in a small loss of income as boxes are regularly emptied. Significant repair costs were incurred. The CCTV provision and management strategy to minimise risk at both locations will be subject to report and review shortly.

The annual and local audits were submitted without any external requests for access to the accounts. The results of the audit were published as required by statute. The External Auditor raised no issues and made no comment on the Annual Accounts for 2013 – 14.

The council reviewed its reserves and future income and expenditure in setting its budget for 2015 - 2016 and decided to once again set the annual precept at a rate of £NIL

Roger Khanna