

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

4 APRIL 2017

The financial affairs of the Parish Council continue to be in sound order. Revenue expenditure was within the original budget estimate. There has been a complete refurbishment of the Toilet Block at the car park in Worth Matravers funded from Reserves. . Income in 2016-17 from the suggested donations at Worth Matravers and Harmans Cross car parks has been maintained above budget on a rolling 12 month period. The Council's Bank Statement has been formally 'Reconciled' against the 2016-17 Budgets, the Santander current account total, and the Cash Book records each month.

Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been met on budget. These sums arose from the PC contract prices as retendered during the year for a three year period to 2018.

The mild winter weather meant that the salt was not used from the two grit bins supplied by the PC on Haycrafts Lane. DCC continues to cut its routine highway maintenance budget and it is likely that local wishes for any discretionary environmental and amenity highway maintenance will increasingly fall cost wise onto parish councils.

One overnight theft from the donation box at the HX car park resulted in a very small loss of income as boxes are regularly and voluntarily emptied by Councillors. The new padlock system trialled at HX proved successful as no damage to the box or stone pillar occurred and the padlock was simply and cheaply replaced. The much improved central tower located multiple CCTV provision and agreed management strategy for Worth Car Park has protected that substantial income stream in 2016-17.

The annual and local audits for 2015-16 were submitted without any external requests for access to the accounts. The results of the audit were published as required by statute. The External and Internal Auditors raised no issues. The Council reviewed its Financial and Internal Controls and its Reserves after substantial expenditure in 2015 – 17. The PC formally considered these Reserves, in excess of one year's revenue expenditure, and its future annual income and expenditure in setting its budget for 2017 -18. The PC decided that again and for over fifteen years in a row to set the annual council tax precept at a rate of £NIL. Worth Matravers is the sole Parish Council in Purbeck to set a £Nil rate precept.

Roger Khanna