

Financial Report

The first thing people always want to know in the annual report is 'what has the Council spent its money on?' (or, rather: 'what has the Council spent *my* money on?'). This year, the largest item of expenditure was village maintenance (£7,400), with the main individual items being: grass cutting of verges and village greens (£2,560), our street cleaner Beth Clarke (£1,519), maintenance of Blacksmith's Pond (£700), general maintenance (signs, etc.) (£1,400), plus lesser amounts on new dog bins and the like.

Spending on the Recreation Ground and Sports & Social Club was just over £4,500, with most of the money (£3,300) being spent on mowing and groundman's work; in addition, around £640 was spent on controlling the nuisance of rabbits. Around £3,700 was spent on so-called 'Council Expenses'. This category includes things like Insurance (£2,200), Financial Audits (£500), Council Newsletters (£430) and around £250 each on room hire and the binding of Council minutes from 2003 to 2015.

Salaries and office expenses accounted for just under £8,900, although of course the Councillors themselves receive no remuneration for their work. Subscriptions to professional bodies and publications cost just over £830; the allotments in Little Lane cost us around £150 to maintain and the Council still has a year's worth of repayments to make (£700 p.a.) on the loan it took out to purchase The Bury in 2002. Other expenditure on things such as the Neighbourhood Plan has all been funded from external grants.

On the income side: virtually all of the Parish Council's income is derived from the Annual Precept, which is included as part of your Council Tax. You will see from your Council Tax Bill that Pirton has increased the amount it requests in precept by about 2.7% this year. At their Budget Meeting in November 2015, councillors felt that this was a reasonable increase to allow the Council to keep the village amenities to an acceptable standard. The figure for 'Donations' appears high at £21,000, but a large amount of this is money the Sports & Social Club has been accumulating towards the resurfacing of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the Recreation Ground and which has now been transferred into the Council's account.

Village organisations are also encouraged to apply to the Parish Council for grant funding, if their operations improve the life of Pirton residents. This year the Council has introduced a scheme for applications for grants. Interested organisations should go to the Council website and download an application form: www.pirtonparishcouncil.org.uk/reports and look for 'doc019' under 'Standard Documents'. Applications need to be made in advance of the Council's Annual Budget Meeting in November/December.

Parish Council finances are subject to local accountability and audit controls. The council employs the Parish Clerk as its Responsible Financial Officer (Local Govt. Act 1972 s151) to carry out the day-to-day administration and to prepare the annual accounts for audit.

An independent internal auditor verifies the Council's financial procedures and processes with the annual accounts approved at the Parish Council meeting held on 14th April 2016. The Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2016 will be placed on notice boards and examined by the External Auditor, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP Chartered Accountants.

Stephen Smith, B.Sc.(Hons.)
Responsible Financial Officer

Annual Report 2015 - 2016

Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2016

	2015/16	2014/15
Balance B/Forward	43,533.15	45,073.43
RECEIPTS		
Precept	29,739.16	30,330.00
Grants	8,955.84	10,175.64
Donations	21,040.39	7,740.15
Allotment Rental	78.00	238.00
VAT recovered	3,985.68	4,160.34
Bank Interest	18.58	46.60
Miscellaneous	0.00	447.26
TOTAL	63,917.65	53,137.99
PAYMENTS		
Staff Costs & Expenses	8,894.84	7,275.32
Loan repayments	693.20	693.20
Council Expenses	3,721.82	4,018.45
Village Maintenance	7,400.70	9,195.70
PSSC/Recreation Ground	4,535.76	11,818.64
Allotments	144.53	0.00
Subscriptions	833.04	911.57
S137 Grants	17.00	717.00
Village Projects	14,321.46	15,484.60
VAT input	3,931.94	4,563.79
TOTAL	44,494.29	54,678.27
Increase/(Decrease) for the Year	19,423.36	(1,540.28)
Balance Carried Forward	62,956.51	43,533.15
Bank Balance at 31 March 2015		
Unity Trust Account	62,956.51	

Mr S Smith
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 14 April 2016