

Financial Report

Village maintenance was one of the largest items of expenditure this year, as usual, with just over £2,000 being spent on our Street Cleaner, almost £2,600 being spent on keeping the village greens cut and £3,500 on General Maintenance, although £2,200 of that was spent on new fencing on The Bury, towards which the Bury Trust contributed around £1,000.

Salaries and office expenses accounted for just over £9,000, although of course the Councillors themselves receive no remuneration for their work. Subscriptions to professional bodies and publications cost around £950; the allotments in Little Lane cost us around £150 to maintain and the Council is still paying off the loan it took out to purchase The Bury in 2002 (the final payment is in September 2017). Other expenditure on things such as the Neighbourhood Plan has all been funded from external grants. Just under £17,000 was spent on facilities at the Recreation Ground (heaters, floodlight repairs, facilities for the Firework Display, Boxing Day Run and Summer Fair, as well as electricity for the PSSC), but a good deal of this is refunded from PSSC income.

Money has been set aside this year to ensure that Blacksmith's Pond is maintained in tip-top condition. A water survey has been undertaken and the recommendations in the report will be implemented over the coming months and years.

The Council was pleased to be able to award grants to village organisations this year, including St.Mary's Church (£500 for grasscutting), Pirton School (£160 for commemorative bookmarks to mark the Queen's 90th birthday), Lea Sports PSG Football Club (£500 towards the cost of new goalposts), the Sports & Social Club (£340 for the installation cost of new bar grilles), £90 to Pirton Craft Group, £380 to the 15th Hitchin Beavers and £150 towards the Christmas Tree Lights at The Fox.

On the income side: virtually all of the Parish Council's income is derived from the Annual Precept, which this year brought in just over £31,500. Grants were at a premium this year – apart from money towards the Neighbourhood Plan, the Council received a small amount to install a Bike rack at the Village Hall and an amount towards the cost of renovating the floodlights at the Multi-Use Games Area at the Recreation Ground.

Village organisations are also encouraged to apply to the Parish Council for grant funding, if their operations improve the life of Pirton residents. 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 13th April 2017. The Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2017 will be placed on notice boards and examined by the External Auditor, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP Chartered Accountants.

Steve Smith

Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2017

	2016/17	2015/16
Balance B/Forward	62,956.51	43,533.15
RECEIPTS		
Precept	31,582.63	29,739.16
Grants	8,133.92	8,955.84
Donations	11,558.94	21,040.39
Rental Income	1,381.00	78.00
VAT recovered	6,410.42	3,985.68
Bank Interest	25.54	118.58
Miscellaneous	101.14	0.00
TOTAL	59,193.59	63,917.65
PAYMENTS		
Staff Costs & Expenses	9,119.12	8,894.84
Loan repayments	693.20	693.20
Council Expenses	3,922.01	3,721.82
Village Maintenance	9,960.65	7,400.70
PSSC/Recreation Ground	4,755.19	4,535.76
Allotments	162.51	144.53
Subscriptions	944.77	833.04
S137 Grants	1,300.10	17.00
Other Grants	1,047.00	0.00
Village Projects	30,005.10	14,321.46
VAT input	6,775.25	3,931.94
TOTAL	68,684.90	44,494.29
Increase/(Decrease) for the Year	(9,491.31)	19,423.36
Balance Carried Forward	53,465.20	62,956.51
Bank Balance at 31 March 2017		
Unity Trust Account	53,465.20	

Stephen Smith
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 14 April 2017