

CAWTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31.3.2021

The Parish Council continues to be on a sound financial footing. The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020 were audited by both the internal and external auditors last summer and were found to be in good order. In accordance with legislation the audit report was displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board for 14 days after receipt of it and are displayed on the parish council website.

Bank balance as at 31st March 2021 was in the region of £40,830.

Total receipts for 2020/21 were in the region of £32,492 which includes £3,385 VAT reclaimed. There was a large increase in the amount of cemetery fees received this year due to an increase in the number of new graves purchased.

Total payments for 2020/21 were in the region of £29,212

Expenditure for the Neighbourhood Plan was £3000; this was covered by a grant from Groundwork UK

A total of £2,839 was given out as grant aid in the financial year 2020/21.

The precept remained static at £21,000, with the shortfall coming from reserves. The government decided not to cap town and parish precepts at 2% for the near future provided town and parish councils show restraint.

BMBC passed on the Council Tax Support Grant which meant that Cawthorne Parish Council received the full £21,000 precept figure asked for.

Reserves are adequate for any unforeseen events.

Budgeted running costs for the year 2021/22 are in the region of £32,792 including grant aid.

The accounts for the year 2020/21 will be audited this summer. Public notices will be displayed in due course as to when the audit period will be, and the final audit report will be displayed after the audit has been completed. A smaller authority with neither receipts nor payments over £25,000 is not obliged to have an external audit. Cawthorne Parish Council's receipts are over £25,000 so will have to have an external audit this year.

The annual governance statement, the internal audit report and year end accounts for 2019/20 are available to view on the Parish Council's website and 2020/21 information will be available by 1st July 2021. Also on the website there is a list of councillor responsibilities, details of land held by the Parish Council and minutes and agendas for all council meetings.

S. Maxine Bashforth, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, 29th March 2021

Budget and Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday 9th December 2020 (via Zoom).

Council members present: - Cllr M. Broadhead, Cllr S Eyre, Cllr D Barron, Cllr J Walker,

Clerk Mrs S M Bashforth.

A detailed draft budget report submitted by the clerk & finance office Mrs Bashforth showing projected and actual expenditures for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and the forecast for 2021/2022 was scrutinised in detail.

The running costs of the council, Clerks salary, office expenses, computer running costs, broadband, conference & courses, showed no significant change.

The cemetery, churchyard and orchard costs were reviewed. It was proposed to continue with the following contracts: - T & D Contractors for grass cutting, Kevin Parsons for gardening work, Tree-Canopy Climb for tree work, JMB Tree Services for hedge cutting in the cemetery.

No additional expenditure for the village hanging baskets should be required as this cost is covered by sponsorships.

Several grant applications submitted were discussed and agreed. Village hall ; Summer Fete ; Cawthorne Parents Association ; Toddler Group ; Cawthorne Football Club ; Cawthorne Cricket Club.

In conclusion – The Budget and Finance Committee recommend that the following be recommended to the Council for approval - **The budget for 2021/2022. Grant allocations as proposed. That a new precept of £24,000 be agreed.**

A precept of £21,000 as not been uplifted since 2008. If it had been at a level of 2% each year the precept would now be £27,166.

NB - £5000 has been earmarked to help towards the cost of some form of traffic management system in the village.

John Walker, Committee Chairman.