



RFO Finance Report submitted at the Assembly meeting of the Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **Finance Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

The Clerk/RFO delivered a report of finances to year end:

#### **Budget Overall:**

**Expenditure:** down 69% overall on budget with a high excess in project funding that needs to be addressed with proposals to be submitted and carried forward during the new municipal year.

#### **Notable increases in expenditure for 2017/18:**

- a) Councillors Allowance (£6,234), a right for all to claim and as set by the TDC Remuneration Panel.
- b) Maintenance and Waste Management (£12,464) included to cover any shortfalls in higher tier services that will need to be closely monitored to ensure accountability in the audit regime imposed on the council and continuing inclusion in future budgets.

**Income:** overall income in 2016/17 was up by 4% on previous year due to an increase in income from the cemetery income in burials and memorials.

**Vat Return:** £2,266.21 has been received for the claim of VAT paid during 2016/17 as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Year End Audits:** The internal audit for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 is in process with a new auditor, Heelis & Lodge of Pettistree, Suffolk following the retirement of Ken Abraham through ill health. PKF Littlejohn LPP, London are the external auditors as appointed by the Audit Commission. The reporting season for 2016/17 gives a deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 by which time the completed and approved Annual Return together with relevant supporting documents must be submitted to the external auditor. The statutory deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 is the date by which the Annual Return and external auditors signed report must be published.

#### **Precept 2017/18:**

The increase in the precept for 2017/18 has increased above that on previous years partially to safeguard services that are under threat from the district and county councils, such as the clearance of fly tipping that has increased following the restrictions imposed at Recycling Centres on items no longer accepted. At present the district council have assisted in addressing reports of fly tipping in taking the items away, however there is no guarantee that they will continue to 'pick up the bill' for future incidents. These factors have given rise to the introduction of an amount of £12,464.00 in the year to provide a programme of maintenance and waste management shared over both wards.

Not only the cost to individual, but the time taken by Councillors in monitoring areas, receiving reports and dealing with the issues of fly tipping has increased immensely.

Councillors take on the role as volunteers with a passion for their communities; the added pressure on their time in dealing with such issues has taken its toll, time they would normally use more productively. Councillors' allowance for the first time has been introduced to the precept as set out below following recommendations from the Tendring District Council Parish Independent Remuneration Panel:

Maximum Band 2 Parish Basic Allowance: Member = £516

Maximum Band 2 Parish Basic Allowance: Chairman = £648

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These allowances are in accordance with the Local Government legislation for any member to claim during the current budget year, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

In addition the impact of the high increase to the precept this year has been exaggerated by the grant paid by the Government (Local Council Tax Support Scheme) towards the precept request has been decreased over the last 2 years by 5% per year together with contracts in place, due for renewal during the municipal year, have indicated increases of 5% which at the time of renewal the best value for money is sourced in putting the works out for tender.

The table below shows the last 6 years' statistics with the weekly charge to the appropriate property band:

Ramsey & Parkeston Council Tax Bands calculated on Annual Tax Base published																	
BAND	A	Band A £ per week	B	Band B £ per week	C	Band C £ per week	D	Band D £ per week	E	Band E £ per week	F	Band F £ per week	G	Band G £ per week	H	Band H £ per week	%on Y
2012/13	£33.93	£0.65	£39.58	£0.76	£45.24	£0.87	£50.89	£0.98	£62.20	£1.20	£73.51	£1.41	£84.82	£1.63	£101.78	£1.96	0.0%
2013/14	£32.57	£0.63	£37.99	£0.73	£43.42	£0.84	£48.85	£0.94	£59.71	£1.15	£70.56	£1.36	£81.42	£1.57	£97.70	£1.88	-4.0%
2014/15	£31.93	£0.61	£37.26	£0.72	£42.58	£0.82	£47.90	£0.92	£58.54	£1.13	£69.19	£1.33	£79.83	£1.54	£95.80	£1.84	-1.9%
2015/16	£36.60	£0.70	£42.70	£0.82	£48.80	£0.94	£54.90	£1.06	£67.10	£1.29	£79.30	£1.53	£91.50	£1.76	£109.80	£2.11	14.6%
2016/17	£36.79	£0.71	£42.93	£0.83	£49.06	£0.94	£55.19	£1.06	£67.45	£1.30	£79.72	£1.53	£91.98	£1.77	£110.38	£2.12	0.5%
2017/18	£60.41	£1.16	£70.48	£1.36	£80.55	£1.55	£90.62	£1.74	£110.76	£2.13	£130.90	£2.52	£151.03	£2.90	£181.24	£3.49	64.2%

**2017/18 Objectives:** the balance to be carried forward for 2017/18 is £48,733.12, including uncashed cheques totalling £136.30, giving an opening balance of +45% on the previous year (£33,563.27).

In light of the high increase of +64.2% on the precept for 2017/18 I would encourage all Councillors to be pro-active in ensuring the budget for 2017/18 is spent as adopted; ensuring the public purse is protected and our parishioners see value for money in the precept they pay.