

Westhall Parish Council
Responsible Financial Officer's Report 2020/21

The Parish Council's total receipts for the 2020/21 financial year was **£4,888.89**, the precept of **£3,120.00** being the major item; the Council received £600 towards the purchase of a memorial bench to Tony Whatling which included a grant of £500 from Cllr Tony Goldson's Locality Fund; £1050 in reimbursement of tree felling costs from the Recreation Ground Charity.

This year the Parish Council's total payments of **£3,710.45** was less than its receipts by £1,178.44 and we spent **£289.16** more than in the previous financial year. These costs have been offset somewhat by the Charity's reimbursement of £1,138.89 for the ground maintenance costs paid by the Council in relation to the pleasure ground, and the £600 donation for a memorial bench as mentioned above. Partly due to Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions, there were some underspends on budget for items such as clerk's salary, office expenses, training and maintenance. The budget for donations was reduced mainly due to the cancellation of the Halesworth Parking Scheme. All other recurring items of expenditure have remained close to budget with the Council due to receive a VAT refund of £28.21, based on 2020/21 expenditure.

At the end of the financial year the Parish Council held cash at bank totaling **£6,660.20**. This breaks down as £6,659.20 in the Barclays current account, and £1 in the business premium account.

On the basis of its 2021/22 budget, the Parish Council considered it necessary to request an increase in the 2021/22 precept to ensure adequate funding is available to cover payments for the coming and future years. The 2021/22 will be **£4,000**. This means that parishioners will see a 26.42% increase in Band D equivalent properties. The 2021/22 budget includes an appropriate cash reserve of **£3,500** against ongoing and reasonably foreseeable additional expenses with a restricted fund of £477 for defibrillator maintenance.

With regards to the charity 'Recreation Ground', which owns the car park, pleasure ground and allotments with the Parish Council as Trustees, the total income for the 2020/21 financial year was £168.55. The allotment rents contributing £168 have been paid to the charity and, in turn, the charity reimbursed to the Parish Council the cost borne by the Council of cutting the pleasure ground grass £88.89 net of VAT and £1050 for tree felling. As at year end 2019/20 the cash at bank total was £1,298.89 and at year end 2020/2021 it was **£328.55**.

Ann Donnachie
Responsible Financial Officer, June 2021