

Treasurers Report 2022-23

Total Reserves held at yearend 2022/23 were £43616.

The External Auditors strongly recommend that the maximum reserves should not exceed twice the Precept amount. The Precept for the year stood at £14350. Therefore the maximum Reserve balance would equate to £28700. Reserves were substantially above this threshold by £14916. The explanation for such an increase is attributed to the Parish Council instigating an affordable housing project on the site of the old Egg Packing Station and a fundraising project to raise funds to create a footway linking the Swimming Pool and Lazonby Bridge. The Eden DC grant for affordable housing was paid in two phases, firstly £27000 and secondly £34000, the first phase has been spent and the second only partially. The footway donations in total after all costs amounted to £30031 and this amount was finally paid to Cumbria CC in February, greatly reducing the reserve balance of £74090 the previous year.

Therefore Parish Reserves less the remaining unspent grant were £15116, inside the recommended reserve threshold.

Whilst the Precept was increased by £1000 to £14350 in May 2022 to cover £6000 in local group grant applications including the Queen's Jubilee grants and £3000 from reserves to contribute to the footway project in December 2022 the Council agreed that the Precept should remain unchanged at £14350 for 2023/24.

This was in recognition of the effects of the living cost crisis on parishioners and adequate reserves to cover expected costs in 2023/24.

A full audit externally will again be needed because of the turnover thresholds breaching the £25k limit of income and expenditure. This will be available in its entirety on the Parish website from July. However, I have provided some detail in the main differences between the accounts of 2021/22 and present day 2022/23.

Local grants were UP £4925 - Local group applications were £5066, Jubilee applications £375 and £500 was contributed to the Village Hall to renovate the Flat for a Ukrainian couple.

Capital/Project expenditure was UP £30384 - The accumulated donations for the footway project totaled £30031 after costs as this was paid to Cumbria CC for the works in February. Another 6 street lights were adopted by the Parish and upgraded with new light heads at a cost of £2520.

Grants Received were UP £8181 - Cumbria CC provided £1500 towards the 6 street lights recently adopted and £7500 from Eden DC towards the footway project.

Recycling Credits were UP £995 – no payment was made in 2021/22 which has now been rectified although the second half of 2022/23 has yet to be paid.

Staff Salaries/Costs WERE UP £820 – due to a substantial increase in wages under local authority guidelines.

Maintenance was DOWN £1815 – despite £2000 paid to GDS Doors for a shutter added to the storehouse, and renovation to the Parish Noticeboards.

VAT Recovery was DOWN £3052 – The Affordable Housing Project had a temporary lull in activity resulting in less project work for the site. It must be noted that the majority of any VAT recovered overall is apportioned to the remaining grant from Eden DC.

Miscellaneous Income was DOWN £23323 - In 2021/22 the majority of the donations towards the footway project were paid into the Parish Deposit account to ringfence from the usual Parish business, just two more donations were received in 2022/23 for £175.

Finally the Budget for 2023/24 has projected a net deficit of £1290 projecting Reserves as at **31/03/2024** of **£13102**

Chris Hoy Treasurer LPC 10th May 2023