

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Report from the Responsible Financial Officer:

The end of year accounts shows a balance of £31,031.85, extremely healthy for a year end, but there is a large amount earmarked for projects.

Income

The biggest single income is the maturity of the Reserve Account at £10,307. The Parish Council were mindful that the funds needed to drain the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Catterall were taking a number of years to accumulate so invested these in a Reserve Account for one year to make the most of the money. This investment matured in August and added £307 in interest to balances. The VAT refund was more for last year due undertaking work on the Multi Use Games Area, the Village Survey and grounds maintenance in the village.

Catterall Playing Field was used by the Brockholes Arms team during the Catforth and District Summer League and the playing pitch is about to be remarked to attract championship games in the local leagues. Unfortunately Garstang Free Methodists were unable to field a team for the Winter season.

The Grounds Maintenance Contract with Kirkland Parish Council has again been confirmed and includes public areas in the Village and the Parish. The Amenity Grass Cutting carried out on behalf of Lancashire County Council was offered at a lower price, to be more reflective of market conditions. The Parish Lengthsman has also been 'sub-contracted' to work in our partnership Parish of Pilling, during the extended illness by their Parish Lengthsman.

Expenditure

Staff costs are marginally up on last year due to additional work by the Parish Lengthsman in Pilling. The parish maintenance has remained on an even level with no excessive damage and the equipment costs have decreased significantly as no new pieces of equipment have been purchased

The costs of administrating the Parish Office are off set through the partnership agreement with Kirkland and Pilling Parish Councils who both pay into these costs. The energy costs for the Parish Office continue to be paid annually.

The grounds maintenance of Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Catterall was awarded to R. R. Kippax and Olive Branch Landscapes, whose standard is higher and more thorough than in previous years. The Youth Shelter suffered damage to the lights and the timer for the floodlights needs replacing.

Work to relocate the CCTV on Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Catterall has been completed and the free standing pole offers instant access to the camera for maintenance but still gives the best possible picture on the recording device in the Parish Office. In addition the future of the CCTV at the Pickerings remains uncertain.

There have been no section 137 payments made, but donations have been given to Bowland Mountain Rescue, the Royal British Legion and St. Helens Church for the upkeep of the graveyard.

It must be noted that a number of projects have not been carried out in this year and the funding for them remains and will be carried over to next year. These include the drainage of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, new nets for the Multi Use Games Area and the correct lights for the floodlights.

The report was accepted by members.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Report from Catterall Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Bugeja reported the committee’s concern over the state of the car park, but that there was not sufficient money to repair. It was hoped that the Parish Council would donate towards its re-surfacing.

Report of Catterall and Kirkland Memorial Hall

The bank balance is reasonably health with the income balancing against the expenditure. The trustees have submitted a grant to replace the windows with UPVC double glazing. Kirkland Parish Council has located two public seats on the field and three trees have been planted, one in memory of Harry Kenyon and two to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

Report of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils Representative

More information is being cascaded down to the Parishes direct from officers including the A-Z of public sector finance and the implications of fracking in our area.

Report of the representative of the Wyre Area Road Safety Committee

Lancashire County Council gets through problems raised.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

CRAG

A number of residents were concerned about the funds being held by CRAG. Following the anti-incinerator campaign 12 years ago a public meeting voted for the collected funds, about £6,000, to be held until the threat of the incinerators passed and then used to the benefit of Catterall. The final public meeting at the Golf Club stated that a public meeting must be held in order to dispose the funds. Requests for a meeting have gone unheeded for many years, but one is promised shortly.

Catterall Parish Council initially set up the meetings of the action group, until new legislation prevented them from being part of an action group, and despite numerous invites the CRAG members have decline to talk to the Parish Council or residents about what is happening. A CRAG member since 2002 Mr. Sweetman informed the Annual Meeting that a public meeting to consider the views of local people will be held shortly as the chairman has been asked to bring this issue to an end. He added that balance sheets have not been produced for 5 years and meetings have become erratic.

There was concern as to who would distribute the funds and this would be Dorothy Walmsley and Pete McGrath.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05p.m.

Date

Chairman