**Wistow cum Newton Harcourt Parish Meeting**

**Treasurers Report April 2021**

**Summary, Financial Year 2020/2021**

The Parish Meeting currently has a balance of £10,262.92.

This is an increase of £4474.41 over the previous year.

The reason we have such a large balance is due to the reasons I have reported previously, namely at the October 2019 Parish Meeting(PM) it was agreed that the Precept should rise by £2,000 to £5,112 for the 2020/21 financial year. The increase was to help with funding of replacement Vehicle Activation Signs (VAS) in Newton Harcourt. We subsequently found out that a PM is not allowed to use the Precept for VAS.

Further investigations took place regarding what a PM is allowed to spend money on and this resulted in a Zoom meeting with the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) in February 2021 at which it was further clarified that a PM is very limited in terms of what it can spend. This means we have also been unable to provide the customary £2,000 per annum to the Reading Room.

Julie is now in contact with Harborough District Council to see if they are able, and we are willing, for them to confer additional powers to the PM in order for us to spend Precept money on items the PM feels is beneficial to the community.

As a result of the information we have learned over the last 12 – 18 months, we reduced the Precept for 2021/22 to £1,000, covering just our annual running costs.

**Bank Account Issues**

The difficulties reported at previous meetings have finally been resolved with the opening of a Treasurers account at Lloyds. They have credited us with £450 in compensation because of the difficulties we went through over an 18 month period.

**Annual Audit**

The Parish Meeting Accounts are audited annually, currently David Scott has taken on the role of Internal Auditor, for which this has been his final audit.

Many thanks to David for carrying out this task over recent years.

David’s completed Internal Audit Report is attached.

The Accounts also have to be submitted to an External Auditor, currently PKF Littlejohn. There are a number of formal processes and forms that have to be completed before submission and the Parish Meeting is involved in a number of them as follows:

1. **Annual Internal Audit Report**

This needs to be received and noted by the Parish Meeting before approving the following documents.

1. **Annual Governance Statement**

The Parish Meeting needs to approve this. The Chair then signs.

1. **Accounting Statements**

The Parish Meeting needs to approve these.

The Chair then signs.

1. **Certificate of Exemption**

This confirms that the Parish Meeting meets the criteria to be exempt from a more in depth External audit and needs to be declared as such and approved by the Parish Meeting.

The Chair then signs.

1. **Publication Requirements**

Parish Meetings must publish on a suitable website and/or notice board the above documents.

1. **Exercise of Public Rights**

One of the requirements is that the account book and all receipts/bills are available for inspection, by a local government elector for the area, for a certain defined and published period of time.

The Chair must commence the Public Rights period as soon as practical after the above documents have been approved. The period must be for 30 working days and include the first 10 working days of July.

Therefore this period will commence for us on Thursday 3rd June and end on Wednesday 14th July.

If anyone wishes to inspect the accounts at any other time, please contact the Treasurer to arrange.

Graham Handsley

Treasurer