

Wistow cum Newton Harcourt Parish Meeting

Treasurers Report July 2020

Financial Year 2019/2020

Attached to this report are all the formal documents that the Parish Meeting is required to complete for the previous financial year (2019/2020).

It is a requirement that these accounts are presented at a Parish Meeting and formally approved after which they can be signed by the Chair. This would normally have been at the end of July. Clearly we are unable to do this at the moment whilst we are under Covid-19 restrictions, but as I have completed the accounts and they have been audited by David Scott, I think it makes sense to circulate them for information until such time as I can complete the task as formally required. Feel free to ask me any questions in relation to them.

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. I am more than happy to show them to anyone expressing an interest regardless of this specific period (which we are unable to publish as it is tied to the date of the Parish Meeting). Please contact me if you so wish.

Notes

The accounts for 2019/2020 show a larger balance to be carried forward than would normally be the case. This is due mainly to the following reasons:

- the Reading Room Committee did not request funds during that year, this would normally have been £2000
- our Treasurer, Bridget was very poorly during the year and sadly passed away in December, otherwise I feel sure she would have followed this up
- a new Treasurer did not take office until April 2020
- there were and still are some difficulties in changing signatories at the bank which has meant approx £300 of other expenditure did not take place until April 2020.

Bank Account Issues

We have been trying to change the signatories on the account for many months now, but I'm afraid Lloyds Bank have not proven very efficient in achieving this and since the lockdown it has become even more difficult to progress. Our previous Chairman, David Baker, is still a signatory however and we have been able to pay the few bills we do receive.

Financial Year 2020/2021

The Precept for 2020/2021 was increased by £2000 to £5112 and was agreed at the Parish Meeting on 28 October 2019. The reason for the increase was to enable us to put money towards funding Vehicle Activation Signs (VAS) on Glen Road. Unfortunately, as we have previously notified you, we were subsequently advised that as a Parish Meeting (as opposed to a Parish Council) we did not have the powers to fund VAS.

The Parish is limited by law regarding what it can use the Precept for. Since 1996/97 the Parish has been using the Precept to contribute to the upkeep and development of the Reading Room. The Reading Room is our only community facility and is on a long term lease from the Wistow Estate.

If you have any questions/comments/suggestions regarding any of this, please let me know.

Graham Handsley
Treasurer