

RFO Notes to members- September 2020:

Dear all, please find below the finalised quarter reports- 30.06.2020 and 30.09.2020. I have prepared a report with separate cost centres to assist committees. Please note there was an error on the precept "agreed" amount for the first quarter which was corrected for the second quarter.

These are my initial recommendations with regards to updating our earmarked reserves. You will remember the existing amounts have been in place since 2012 and we have been waiting for the Neighbourhood Plan to be finalised in order to establish the parish's priorities in terms of investment and capital expenditure. The attached report takes into account those and the current spend trend- ie- if we were to spend as budgeted. No further income is expected at this stage although some Cil may be forthcoming. Some budgets will most probably be overspent due to the works to Priory Lane and the felling of trees in the Churchyard, but those may be balanced by savings made in other areas, such as mileage, grass cutting, training, elections, etc...The report shows our projected position at year-end with regards to general reserves, and how low they are likely to be - which is not a problem providing members are mindful of it and manage expectations based on the overall bank balance, which may appear very healthy but is mostly allocated (should you wish to go with my recommended reserves movements).

Post-meeting:

I've been trying to get the earmarked reserves updated with RBS this morning online as there are quite a few that we agreed to change. Although we haven't got an earmarked reserve for Street Lights (as in the new ones we had installed), as it remains unpaid, we have that £60-65K showing as part of general reserves at the end of the accounting periods and I would like to see that given a "name" so it's not misinterpreted when we publish our first quarter and half-year accounts. Would members be in agreement with me creating an earmarked reserve for that line and have it ratified at the next meeting (so that the reports clearly show amounts allocated? It would also make it easier to see capital availability with regards to funding applications such as the DLC, as our general reserves are currently "inflated" by that amount.

We have been successful in the COVID business grant for £10,000 which I applied for from MSDC (re wc's as they are classed as a rate-paying business). With your agreement, I would like to recommend that part is put in an earmarked reserve for the refurb costs as per resolution to repair/replace/re-decorate. A second portion could go towards additional covid-19 expenditure incurred and a third in a remaining covid-19 pot for any future needs we may have as a parish (community support, etc). But members can decide at a later stage.