

Finance Report for the year ending 31st March 2021

Budget Overall:

Cemetery income:

Burials and memorials gave an income of £3162.00 over the year.

The income from the Cemetery Lodge continues to be secured by monthly payments being made by standing order direct into the Council's bank account. A full revision of the cemetery fees and Cemetery Lodge has been undertaken by Cllrs Ramsay and Davidson, whom I both thank for their work to update our fees. The adopted cemetery fees came into force as from 1st April 2021, however the increase in rent was agreed to be deferred for 6 months with the current impact from the pandemic.

Vat Return: £6,685.37 has been claimed and received in the bank 24.02.2021

Banking: the recent introduction of a debit card on the Council's account has released the requirement and costs in issuing cheques. Online banking is welcomed and robust procedures in place are followed.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21 timetable
Internal Audit – Trevor Brown (CPFA) Internal Audit Services, Woodbridge Suffolk
submission of documents to be made 15th May 2021

External Audit – PKF Littlejohn LPP, London as appointed by the Audit Commission:
Audit plan received is to set a submission date for the return of the completed AGAR Part 3, consisting of 3 parts: (1) The annual internal audit report, (2) Annual Governance statement and Accounting statements completed and approved by the Parish Council (3) External audit report and associated documentation to be submitted by 2nd July 2021.

Precept 2021/22

Councillors' allowances remain in line with recommendations set by **the Tendring District Council Parish Independent Remuneration Panel:**

Maximum Band 2 Parish Basic Allowance: Member = £516

Maximum Band 2 Parish Basic Allowance: Chairman = £650

Elected Councillors are only at liberty to claim the allowance, payable year ending 31st March pro-rata to reflect attendance to meetings (10 full council meetings set per annum).

These allowances are in accordance with the Local Government legislation for any member to claim during the current budget year.

Contracts:

Ramsey Street Lighting: the current 5-year contract held with A&J Lighting Solutions for maintenance running from 1st August 2018 to 31st July 2023 with an annual value circa £3,200.

Landscape Services: following a tender process the current 5-year contract Marvan's Tree & Landscape Services, Ray Lane Ramsey running from 1st May 2018 to 30th April 2023. The annual value of the contract is circa £13,430.

Projects:

Cemetery Chapel: led by Cllr Davidson the chapel has been totally refurbished with the artifacts donated from St Paul's Church Parkeston, following its closure in 2014, are all now re housed along with the Lychgate. Not only securing the property with maintenance it is the aim to open the chapel for services, blessings etc that will bring further income to the council.

Memorial Bricks: a project being taken forward by Cllrs Ramsay and Davidson in raising the profile of the cemetery is to offer memorial bricks to be placed within the existing wall in the chapel's secure porch. To date there has been much interest with full costings and promotions to following during the year.

Memorial Benches: Cllr Lungley researched the purchase of 2 memorial benches to commemorate VE 2020; cost £2,500 with installation of one bench in the Parkeston Cemetery with the other to be installed in Ramsey Village, hopefully on the 'Triangle' following full permissions and insurance requirements secured.

LED Lighting Replacement Programme: the programme to replace all 32 lamps in Ramsey under our ownership as rolled out in 2019, with 12 replacements that year, has seen an additional 12 lamps replaced in 2020/21 budget; the order of works to complete the project has been given to A&J Lighting to replace the remaining 8 lamps in Ramsey in the new budget year. The total cost of the programme over 3 budget years is £14,016 with an anticipated return due to lower maintenance and a longer life span expected of 30+years together with the lower wattage reducing power consumption and a lower carbon footprint. Each new LED panel and the driver carry a 10 year manufacturer's warranty.

2021/22 Objectives: the bank balance to be carried forward for 2021/22 is £103,585.45 together with income expected from the cemetery of £9,900 and the precept of £72,418.00 gives an extremely healthy income over the year, however it must be used as set in the budget; ensuring the public purse is protected and our parishioners see value for money in the precept they pay.