

STAINTON AND THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Report of the Responsible Financial Officer i.e. the Clerk

on the Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2020

(Separate accounts are now kept for The Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces which became independent of the Parish Council on 31 May 2010.)

Budget – The Parish Council, in February 2019, set its budget for 2019/20 at £9395 with the precept remaining at £9.31 per household. Any shortfall between the precept and budget to be taken from Parish Council reserves. (Parish Council Minute 7/19).

Expenditure by the Parish Council totalled £8026.80 against receipts of £7855.08 – a deficit of £171.72. However, the total spend was under budget by £1368.20.

The **Capital Statement** shows an excess of Payments over Receipts of £171.72 which decreased the capital at the end of the financial year to £7751.08 (from £7922.80 at 31 March 2019). The Parish Council had budgeted that £2000.00 of this reserve should be set aside to pay for possible Roadside Speed Display Units and also a reserve of £1000.00 for a new village notice board.

The Receipts & Payments Account

The Receipts side shows the main income of the Parish Council in two parts – the precept of £7252.00 and a Council Tax support grant from Middlesbrough Council of £466.00. A reclaim for VAT from HMRC realised £137.08. Receipts for the year totalled £7855.08

The Payments side shows: -

The **Administration Expenses** totalling £5478.66 an increase of £1866.43 on the previous year. This included a full 12-month salary for the Clerk whereas in the previous year the Clerk had only been in the paid post for 7 months. There was also a significant rise in Hall Hire costs owing to the increased number of meetings for the Neighbourhood Plan group. Printing, stationery and consumables costs increased as a result of the extra meetings. Professional fees (Accountancy and Audit) has reduced from the previous year.

The **Regular Annual Expenses** decreased by £747.97 to £1711.95. The biggest saving in this area was by the Environment Committee who reduced their spending by 66% thanks to the overwintering of plants by members resulting in a minimum spend on summer planting. A new source for printing the Village Newsletter saw costs reduced by over £200. The contribution to FSTGS remained at £200.00. Water rates for Kell Gate Green increased sharply owing to an unknown leak on the system – now repaired. The maintenance of village assets, noticeboards, seats, planters etc is now undertaken by the FSTGS and £500.00 is awarded for this process.

The **Other Expenses** total of £836.19 includes £99.98 for PC Software, £684.12 for the Christmas Lights and £52.09 for storage boxes and raffle books. Expenditure in this section was down £610.04 on the previous year as Neighbourhood Plan expenditure is now included under Administration Expenses and there were nil costs this year for Defibrillator maintenance or repairs to seats, barrels and noticeboards.

J. Holmes

RFO and Clerk to Stainton & Thornton Parish Council.

1 April 2020.