

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council - Financial Report 2018/2019

The Parish Council raises a council tax, known as a Precept, each year to finance the services it provides and improve the facilities it manages.

From September each year the Council's committees meet and discuss future projects and spending requirements; culminating in a meeting of the Management & Audit committee who receive the information, making any final adjustments prior to taking a recommendation for the Full Council to consider and agree (or reject). An estimate of the precept for the following financial year is required by WLDC at the end of November each year, with the final demand being submitted by the end of January.

When setting the precept, members are mindful of making increases and implements cuts where possible – the budget is always tight; consideration is given to the services the Council has to deliver and they prioritise these very carefully. These include, but are not exhaustive:

- Village maintenance – arranging grass cutting, painting benches & railings, litter picking and emptying litter bins, gritting and many other daily tasks
- Staffing the Parish Office and employment of the facilities team
- Managing the hire and maintenance of Manor Park Sports Club
- Maintenance to the playing fields and play areas including the Skate Park
- Retaining a Library service and providing a Community Hub
- Floral displays and ways to improve the environment

In 2018/19 the precept was kept down by utilising monies in reserves and the council was able to make a reduction of 5.7% on the previous year. This year however the precept will increase by 7.63% or the equivalent of 15p per week per household for a Band D Property .

The Precept this year was £139,966. Income £35,211 including £8,035 of grant funding and contributions, with expenditure of £161,613. Monies in the bank and Ear Marked Reserves held at the year end total £181,972.

Income is generated from hiring out the facilities at Manor Park, Library services, sale of books and village maps, the provision of laminating and photocopying services, allotment rents and bank account interest.

The Council has been fortunate in receiving the following grants/contributions:

£5,167	Lincolnshire County Council	Library – Revenue Grant
£2,000	WLDC	Community Hub Grant
£648	Lincolnshire County Council	Grass cutting contribution
£220	Lincolnshire County Council	Community Wildlife Grant

Manor Park generated income of £24,240 from the hire of the 3G pitch, playing field, pavilion and bowls green. The costs for essential maintenance to the building, grounds, 3G pitch and bowls green were £7,909 and £4,153 was spent on replacing fire doors. Monies in reserves totalling £13,610 were spent on refurbishing the Skate Park and the replacement/maintenance of play equipment. The **Library** had income of £461 from fines, printing, photocopying and the sale of donated books; Lincolnshire County Council has confirmed it will continue to pay the annual revenue grant of £5,167 for the foreseeable future.

The **Environment Committee** oversees the allotments which generated income of £285. The cost of the Christmas tree, purchase, erection and removal, putting up and taking down the lights and the provision of refreshments at the tree lighting was £1,026. Planting up and maintaining the floral displays cost £1,175. Maintenance to trees and shrubs on public open space areas and additional work required to trees came to £4,045. New planters have been purchased to replace the deteriorating wooden barrels including an additional two to be placed next to the commemorative benches at a cost of £3,915.

The **Highways & Utilities Committee** purchased three new benches on Cliff Road, Prebend Lane and Rivehall Avenue and litter bins at a cost of £2,317; expenditure in the main has been £5,032 for grass cutting and grounds maintenance in the village and churchyard. A new piece of machinery called a WeedRipper which the facilities team will use to assist in clearing

the gutters of weeds and a vacuum litter collecting bin have been purchased from monies in reserves at a cost of £4,790.

The Council has decided to continue to pay for the cutting of the grass verges for which LCC has slightly increased its contribution next year and strimming of Public Rights of Way footpaths.

The **Publications & Heritage Committee** has paid for the printing of the Welton Booklet at a cost of £1,018 and £228 was spent on the purchase of new flags. Income of £25 was received with the sale of books and maps.

Councillors have incurred expenses totalling £456.00; this meets the cost of training courses, travel and a small amount of out of pocket expenses.

The Parish Council has awarded £150 to the War Memorial Flower Fund and paid £266 for Public Liability insurance for the May Day Fair.

The Council also appoints an internal auditor to assess the Council's internal controls on a regular basis; these cover things such as ensuring payments made have been signed off by the Council, contracts are correctly quoted and awarded, that the Council has adequate insurance and that financial risks to the Council are properly managed.

The accounts for 2017/2018 were signed off by the Internal and External Auditors and the notice displayed for the required period on the Parish Council Notice Board.

The work I and my team carry out continues to increase with services being devolved from both County and District Councils. Welton Parish Council is a very pro-active council; its members are all unpaid volunteers who want to make a difference to where they live.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Councillors for their continued support. I can't do all this alone and take this opportunity of thanking Linda, my Deputy Clerk for all her hard work and support during her first year in Welton. The facilities team have continued their hard work with forever increasing lists of jobs and for that I thank them.

**Julie Murray, PSLCC
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council**