

# Chiseldon Parish Council



## FINANCE COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 19

The responsibility of the Finance Committee is to formulate and manage the budgets of the Parish Council and its subcommittees. The Council's expenditure is reviewed on a monthly basis by either the Finance sub-committee or the full Parish Council. Monthly supervision of the accounts continues to ensure effective management of the council's finances and offers the opportunity to councillors to scrutinise the payments being made.

Our accounts are subjected to an internal audit by a qualified accountant, Sansum and Company, twice per year and by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn at the end of the financial year which is a legal requirement.

### **Finance Strategy**

The Parish finances remain in good health and our spending has come in below budget. Any funds remaining from the 2018-19 year of account will be carried over into reserves or allocated to new/longer term projects with the agreement of the Finance Committee.

The primary income for the Parish Council is provided by our precept. The Finance Committee sets the budget and amount of precept which is subsequently agreed by the Full Council. This amount is then requested from Swindon Borough Council who then divide the amount by the number of residences in the Parish and collect via the council tax.

In previous years, the council has had to increase precept significantly due to taking on several responsibilities (such as litter picking, grass cutting and general parish maintenance) that were previously managed by Swindon Borough Council and a change in the parish boundary. The parish council's cost and tax bases have now settled down, and the council has requested a precept of £139,000 from Swindon Borough Council which represents a 2.9% increase vs the £135,000 last year.

The council has delivered several projects in the previous year, focussing around the recreation facilities in the parish. The EGPA committee has delivered an extension to the Recreation Ground Car Park and with the aid of the Football Club, improvement works have been performed on the games pitches to aid drainage so that the area can be used all year round.

In addition, the strategy committee have identified further projects to improve traffic issues such as speeding and parking in the parish, with the first parking project to begin in Norris Close shortly, and a speed activated sign on Hodson Road to be installed when the council obtains the necessary permissions from the borough.

The council also continues to support local charities and organisations through its grants and donations programme and by funding the weekly youth activities via the BIOS project.

The council acknowledges that the Recreation Hall off Norris Close is beginning to come to the end of its useful life and has never been a popular venue given its remote location. The Finance Committee started an allocated reserve some time ago to manage the eventual removal of the building and to seek to provide a more suitable replacement which provides a welcoming, multi-use space in a more useful location. The reserve is growing faster than expected and now stands at £45,000.

During the year we have also worked with our accountants to better report performance against budget and to empower committees to manage and use their allocated funds more effectively.

## **Banking**

The Parish Council holds a current account and a savings account with our bankers, Santander.

## **Accounts**

The accounts will be audited internally in the next month by our internal auditors, Sansum and Co Ltd and then by External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn in order to comply with relevant legislation.

Further information on the finances of the Parish can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or the Finance committee.

I wish to extend my thanks to all finance committee members past and present for their work during the year.

Matthew Harris  
Chair, Finance Committee.  
Chiseldon Parish Council.