

**CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Year to 31 March 2024**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

Notes to accompany the Annual Report

This report, including the accounts for the year to 31 March 2024, have been prepared based on information accumulated throughout the year.

## **Chearsley Parish Council**

**Year to 31 March 2024**

### **Unaudited accounts**

### **Income and Expenditure Statement**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Opening cash</b>			72,058	
<b>Income</b>		<b>84,283</b>		
Precept (i)	19,000		19,000	
Precept (ii)	19,000		19,000	
VAT refund	2,168		3,876	
Contribution from third parties	<u>260</u>		1,360	
		<b>40,428</b>		<b>43,236</b>
<b>Expenses – see over for analysis (31,011)</b>		<b>(49,598)</b>		
<b>Closing cash</b>		<b><u>75,113</u></b>		<b><u>£84,283</u></b>

Note that the closing cash is £75,113. Of this, certain sums have already been reserved or committed to ongoing and future village projects:

- Horse Chestnut Island work – £47,000
- Verge protection -£4,000
- Kerbing - £15,000

In the year, one of the reserves brought forward for the kerbing of Church Lane has been used, at a cost of £23,306 – see below.

**Notes to the Accounts**  
**Major expense categories**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	4,234	4,174
Administration	3,458	3,003
Grounds maintenance	7,440	7,778
Village furniture maintenance	909	755
Village events	1,766	2,067
Village grants/donations	100	1,200
Traffic calming/Kerbing	23,306	3,695
Other village projects	8,385	8,339
	<u>£49,958</u>	<u>£31,011</u>

**Additions to village assets**

	£
2023 Opening balance	97,779
2023/24 Disposals	
○ Old flagpole	(319)
2023/24 Additions	
○ Kerbing of Church Lane	23,306
○ Traffic barriers, (cost so far)	4,818
○ New flagpole	894
○ Chearsley flag	226
○ Coronation bench	772
○ Garden machinery	1228
2024 Closing balance	<u>£128,704</u>

## Notes to the Accounts

### Analysis of the major movements in Income and Expense

#### Income

At £40,428 income for the year was slightly down on the previous year. The main reason for this was in the VAT recovered during the year, £2,168 compared with £3,876 last year. In addition, income from Other Sources was well down, £260 against £1,360. The only income in this category this year was the sale of Coronation mugs. (The cost of these mugs was shown in the 2022/23 Accounts). Income from the precept, a direct cost to the parishioners of Chearsley, remained at the same level as last year.

#### Expenses

- Salaries

Salaries are higher this year, as costs increase in line with nationally agreed levels.

- Administration

Administration costs are broadly in line, year on year, allowing for inflation. They include salary administration, insurance, internal and external audit costs, street lighting/electricity, and sundry costs. Almost every cost category has increased in line with the underlying trends, but the major changes, year on year, are in insurance costs and the (new) cost of maintaining the village website.

- Grounds maintenance

Grounds maintenance, cutting the Green and other village pathways, tree cutting and path maintenance, are lower this year. The Council supported the cost of widening a village pathway, £1,800 and paid for one gate on a village bye-way, in 2022/23, and this has not been necessary in 2023/24. This year, however, the Parish Council has invested in three pieces of garden machinery with a total cost of £1,228, to enable the village to meet its commitments to work devolved from Bucks Council.

- Village events

The main feature in this category is the cost of village events to celebrate the coronation of the King, £1,041 and the purchase of the village Christmas Tree.

- Donations

There was only one donation in the year, £100, to support the villagers working in the church. Last year, the Parish council made a significant donation to aid in the purchase of playground equipment for the Village Hall.

- Traffic calming/Other Village Projects

This has been an area of major expense, in part due to the fruition of longer term plans.

The kerbing of Church Lane has now been carried out at a cost of £23,306, and work has also begun on the installation of barriers to protect the village verges, £4,818. In addition, the Council has purchased additional/replacement flags, a new flagpole and a bench to celebrate the King's coronation.

**Chearsley Parish Council**

**Year to 31 March 2024**

**Bank Reconciliation**

Account number: 00034386

Lloyds Bank, sort code: 30-98-56

Balance as per Bank Statement 31 March 2024	£75,374.79
Less: payments outstanding	
McAfee	49.99
HMRC	211.80
Restated Balance at Bank, 31 March 2023	<u>£75,113.00</u>
Balance as per Cash Book 31 March 2023	<u>£75,113.00</u>