

Waterbeach Parish Council

Financial Report for the year 2017-2018

Summary

The parish council showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £302,016 over the year compared with a surplus of £66,995 in 2016-2017. Much of this surplus resulted from substantial S106 receipts during the year of £280,041 (last year £9,061) which are held by the Council pending initiating projects for spending. Overall, general council reserves increased from £146,056 to £207,855 and this has prompted the Council to set a budget for 2018-2019 which aims to spend some of these balances by reducing the Parish Precept and the cost to Council Taxpayers.

Detailed accounts

The official, audited document which summarises the Council's income and expenditure is the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) and the financial summary is shown below (the actual document is available on the Council's website)

Annual return

		2016-2017	2017-2018
Box 1	Balances Brought forward	165,414	232,409
Box 2	Annual Precept	151,858	158,720
Box 3	Total other receipts	63,449	305,190
Box 4	Staff costs	65,391	77,010
Box 5	Loan interest / capital repayments	4,948	4,843
Box 6	All other payments	77,973	80,041
Box 7	Balances carried forward	232,409	534,425
Box 8	Total cash	226,573	549,684

This document shows very little detail, and so the Council also prepares more detailed accounts which show how the above figures are made up. These are not subject to external audit but are prepared in order to give our parishioners more detail of where the money comes from and how their council tax is spent. These accounts can be found below/

Income

Details of the income received by the Council is shown below

	Note	2017-2018	2016-2017
Income		£	£
Precept		158,720	151,858
Burial fees		2,605	4,104
Sports clubs, etc		4,853	3,775
S106 income + interest		280,041	40,822
Interest received		604	972
Grants for specific purposes		6,700	4,581
Grants for warden scheme		5,000	-
Insurance claim		4,790	6,176
Tillage Hall Solar Panels FIT		-	572
Other income		597	2,447
TOTAL income		463,910	215,307

Parish precept

The principal source of income (apart from S106 receipts mentioned below) is the Parish Precept shown in Box 2 of the annual return above. This represents the total amount raised from Council Tax payers within Waterbeach and corresponds to a Band D charge of £90.09. The charge per household was not increased between 2017-2018 and 2016-2017 but, because of the significant number of extra houses built in the village, the amount the Parish Council received went up by 4.5%.

Here is a table of the Band D Council Tax levels for the Parish part of the total for our neighbouring parishes in South Cambridgeshire

Band D parish charge	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Landbeach	52.23	54.54	56.16	61.04	63.31
Milton	73.98	73.63	73.98	71.49	71.21
Fen Ditton	64.54	63.70	66.88	72.45	74.78
Waterbeach	83.40	86.74	90.09	90.09	82.00
Horningsea	84.79	85.52	86.36	91.12	104.08
Histon / Impington	87.67	91.18	93.02	97.18	106.31
Cottenham	106.38	88.30	89.60	140.24	140.19

It is clear from this that Waterbeach sits firmly in the middle of these parishes in regard to Band D level. In terms of the whole of South Cambridgeshire, for 2018-2019 we sit (with Milton and Fen Ditton) within the third quartile of those parishes that charge a precept (£69.09-£83.07).

Other income

As already mentioned, the Council received substantial additional income as shown in Box 3. Most of this (£280,041) comes from developers who pay what are known as Section 106 contributions to the County, District and Parish Councils. These funds must be used for defined projects and we have already asked for ideas via our Newsletters. One particular project which we hope to start shortly is complete resurfacing of the Recreation Ground car park. This has recently been patched by our Grounds staff, but it needs a long term solution and we are using an external project manager to produce proposals and estimated costs.

Expenditure

	2017-2018	2016-2017
Expenditure	£	£
Salaries, wages	76,982	65,297
Casual and part time staff	-	2,267
Staff expenses, training	994	2,551
Stationery, postage	290	334
Insurance	2,931	3,666
Office utilities, rates, etc.	4,611	6,602
Newsletter	606	644
Audit	2,354	1,125
Legal and Professional	1,280	7,893
Subscriptions	664	825
Village green costs	420	521
Cemetery costs	670	2,058
Open spaces maintenance, rates, utilities	13,123	14,128
Tree maintenance	625	2,738
Machinery repairs, servicing, fuel	4,745	5,814
Grants and donations	3 11,245	4,726
Library rent	2,000	2,000
Loan repayments	4,843	4,948
Office equipment	2,940	1,092
Car park maintenance	174	-
S106 expenditure	1 14,073	4,514
Adult exercise equipment	-	1,381
Neighbourhood plan	5,908	4,318
CCTV maintenance	379	1,630
Insured repair costs	5,461	5,396
Warden scheme expenditure	4,075	-
Other costs	501	1,844
TOTAL expenditure	161,894	148,312

There is a significant increase in salaries between 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 (£11,685 or 18%). The main reasons for this were

- 1 For part of 2016-2017 the Council had no Clerk and so the salaries for that year were depressed
- 2 In 2017-2018 we employed an additional assistant clerk to manage the Neighbourhood Plan project

Most other costs showed minor changes although Audit costs increased by £1,229 or 109% following an unsuccessful challenge by a member of the public. Legal and Professional costs showed a substantial drop.

The Council gave substantial grants and donations to various organisations.

3 Grants given during the year

	2017-2018	2016-2017
Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue	300	300
Day at the Beach	400	500
Fen Edge twinning	300	-
Waterbeach CP school (emergency lighting)	245	-
Relate Cambridge	500	500
Waterbeach Cycling campaign	500	-
Waterbeach Day Centre	2,000	-
Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup	-	426
WAY project	4,000	4,000
WILL (summer reading scheme)	3,000	1,000
	<u>11,245</u>	<u>6,726</u>

S106 expenditure is listed in detail below

1 S106 payments during the year

	2017-2018	2016-2017
Tillage Hall roller shutters	1,986	1,717
Library shelving	1,348	-
Toddler play park	9,938	-
Aeration and vertidrainage	800	2,490
	<u>14,072</u>	<u>4,207</u>

The major expenditure was on the new Toddler play park on the site of the old skatepark. This is not yet complete and there will be additional expenditure next year. Unspent S106 reserves are extremely high, and the Council is developing plans to use these for enhancement of village facilities.

The expenditure on the Warden scheme was entirely covered by grants received. This scheme is taking some time to get going.

Overall financial position and looking forward

Parish Council balances have increased from £232,409 at 31 March 2017 to £534,425 at 31 March 2018. This is a very large increase and most of it results from S106 receipts during the year.

The General reserves of the Council increased from £146,056 to £217,793 mainly due to underspends on a number of budget items. Because the Council has such substantial S106 funds in reserves (£315,707) which can go towards capital projects, it was decided to set a deficit budget for 2018-2019. This involves a reduction in the precept from £158,720 to £154,923 (2.4%) and thus, because of the substantial number of new houses in the village, the charge per Band D household will reduce to £82 from £90.09 (9%). The budget for 2018-2019 envisages total expenditure of £218,380 and income of £167,523 (both excluding S106 income and expenditure) leading to a deficit of £50,857 on the year, reducing our general reserves by 23% to £167,206.

17 April 2018