

Girton Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 11th May 2022
Finance & Resource Chair Report

Chair: Ann Muston

When I was co-opted onto the Parish Council in July, 2021, I have been impressed with the way that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk have worked tirelessly to present the Council's finances in a way that is clear to the Council and implementing systems that will make it easier to see immediately where we stand on payments and receipts. All this work will help the Council prepare sensible budgets for each of the areas where money needs to be spent and that a robust financial management plan is in place.

The result of the Covid pandemic has delayed many decisions as Councillors have waited on information. As a result of this, agreeing the precept was delayed. When looking at Council Tax information, it is easy to see a percentage increase as a huge amount and for many the extra may be a huge burden. However, this must be taken in context with the financial and legal obligations Parish Council has. The precept for 2021 – 2022 was £130,952.81 and for 2022- 2023 - 139,651.74 and so it is necessary to fully utilise our facilities to earn additional income which will then enable the Council to make grants to organisations in Girton and build for the future. We have a legal duty not to make sure there are no unacceptable risks with public money and to protect community assets. These assets also need maintenance and replacement. What may seem small amounts of money soon add up and eat into the finances so that projects may have to be delayed, reconsidered or funding is sought from different areas. It is advised that a Council hold 3 – 12 months expenditure as a reserve. The Council is being proactive in getting information out to residents and supporting wherever possible. The asset register is currently being updated.

In January, a workshop was held via Zoom where a mission statement was put forward and a review of the expectations was begun. In the next Council, these updated policies will be presented. It is the aim of the Council to be open and transparent. The Clerk and RFO design and implement the accounting arrangements, regular meetings are taking place to make sure we are aware of and comply with legal requirements. In addition, as much information as possible will be posted on the website and social media.

Once the new Council is in place, budgets will be requested from each of the relevant committees. The financial position of the Council is reviewed at the monthly Full Council meetings when decisions are passed. Finance and Resource Committee meetings are anticipated to be held every 8 – 12 weeks as the need arises. The committee can have members who are not Councillors, and it is hoped that villagers who would like to be involved attend the Finance and Resource Committees when these are held and/or put themselves forward to join us. Any requests for financial support should have a business plan completed so that its merit can be fully understood and debated. Minutes of meetings can be found on the Village Website.

6 May 2022



Girton Parish Councillor

E: ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk

T: 07796430345