

Finance & Resource Management Committee Annual Review

Introduction

The Finance and Resource Management Committee is pleased to present this annual 2023/2024 review to Girton Parish Council and Girton Residents. This report outlines the key financial activities and achievements of the past year, highlighting our commitment to transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility.

1. Communication and Collaboration

Throughout the year, we have maintained excellent communication with other committees, ensuring that our financial strategies align with the broader objectives of the Parish Council. This constructive collaboration has been instrumental in our successful implementation of budgets and financial plans.

The new projects that have been initiated this year supported by Girton Parish Council together with associated Girton groups in Girton including Wellbrook Way Bowling Green facilities and Hibbert-Ware Garden led by the Local Nature Recovery group require broader communication as we understand the complexities and create process and policy to work together.

2. Budget Implementation

We have diligently put in place robust budgets that reflect the needs and aspirations of our community. These budgets have been carefully crafted to support the various initiatives and projects that the Parish Council has prioritized.

Budgets have been itemised, reviewed and signed off by each committee and associated group and then approved by Full Council. This allows increased oversight and the ability to provide more information about Girton Parish Council's activities to Girton Residents.

Our committee is committed to the continuous improvement of the process, and this is a journey that has been taking place throughout the life of this current council. Last year for the first time we asked Girton Residents for their priorities, and this was part of the Budget implementation for 2023/2023.

The themes for 2024/2025 are to continue to consult with Girton on priorities on all projects and to work on a comprehensive Asset Register which will give us a greater understanding of the maintenance and workload required to make best use of our assets. This year each committee and group will be asked to review their Committee and Full Council budget after every meeting to increase their oversight to look for opportunities and savings.

3. Bank & Building Society Accounts

This year significant time has been working to ensure our Bank & Building Society signatories and account access are fully up to date and that there is a process in place so that all Councillors and Staff can access these accounts as required.

Despite initial difficulties in accessing the Melton Mowbray Building Society account, we are pleased to report that the account is now operational. The process required considerable time and effort, but our perseverance has ensured that the Council's funds are secure and accessible.

We also have now opened an account with Unity Bank which we hope will provide more flexibility of access to finances.

4. Efficient Resource Allocation

In line with the advice received, we have been judicious in our use of resources. Consequently, we have reduced the amount of money held in reserves, bringing it more in line with expected levels. This strategic decision has allowed us to allocate funds more effectively to areas of immediate need.

This decision has included adding resources to allow us to be more effective in the workload that our Parish Council needs to address as a responsible employer and also as a guardian of the assets of Girton Parish Council. Over the past year some of the following have been added to our toolbox to increase our response rate: Parish Online (Mapping Tool), Worknest (Employment Law/Health & Safety consultants), Master Planner to look at the long-awaited Refurbishment of our Recreation ground pavilion and broader possibilities. The approval by Council of the additional permanent role of the Parish Ranger to increase our maintenance of the wider village is also key to support residents.

The Workload monitoring tool (Jira application) mentioned in the Chair's report is also making a difference in allowing all of Council to work with Openness and transparency and a much greater understanding of the scope of work.

5. Pavilion Project Funding

The funds allocated for the pavilion project have been ring-fenced, ensuring that this important community asset is developed without financial impediments. We are committed to the timely and efficient use of these funds.

This project is underway with our master planner, Wilby & Burnett who includes an update in each Girton Parish News and attended our Annual Parish Meeting to take questions and ideas. Our Events committee are planning further opportunities for the village to engage with our master planners to ensure that this project is open to the village.

6. Progress and Precision

Responsibility for Girton Parish precept means that Girton Parish Council may move more slowly and deliberately than some of you would like. We emphasize the importance of accuracy and thoroughness. It is crucial that we get it right the first time to avoid future complications and additional costs. Also, a Parish Council is obliged to serve the whole parish and therefore buy-in on some of these major projects is important.

As a committee we are putting policies and process in place to speed delivery and give autonomy to our Committees, Staff and external groups and at the same time increasing oversight of budget, workload and areas that may have previously been blind spots to increase our effectiveness and efficiency.

We are also increasing our Community Engagement to make sure that we increase our ability to set expectations and work through any frustrations.

7. Forward-Looking Financial Management

Considerable time has been invested in identifying outstanding receivables. This exercise was key putting in place an accurate and comprehensive baseline. With that baseline in place that a forward-looking approach is now possible and reflects in the information we are now able to provide. Moving forward, our focus will be on initiative-taking financial management rather than dwelling on past receivables.

Conclusion

The Finance and Report Committee is proud of the strides we have made this year. We have faced challenges head-on and have emerged stronger and more resilient. As we look to the future, we are confident that our financial stewardship will continue to support the Parish Council's mission and serve the best interests of our community. Please see the individual monthly reports for more details and the RFO's comments on the current situation and AGAR.

This report is a testament to our dedication to fiscal excellence and our unwavering commitment to the community we serve. Our thanks go to the RFO, Yvonne Murray for her time and due diligence and to our Facilities Manager, Angie Vidler for the work she has been doing to make sure that the new Bowls Clubhouse is fit for purpose, available for community use and cost effective. Both these employees work tirelessly to support our residents making sure that the governance and due diligence is in place to support community initiatives. As mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting we will always to our best to provide your services and requirement but these have to be prioritised and time allocated so that all tasks can be done effectively with due diligence and understanding in place.

We welcome any questions or discussions that may arise from this review.

Ann Muston
Girton Parish Council
Chair of Finance and Resource Management Committee

Finance & Annual Parish Meetings - More information



See Girton Village Community Website

Precept & Budget

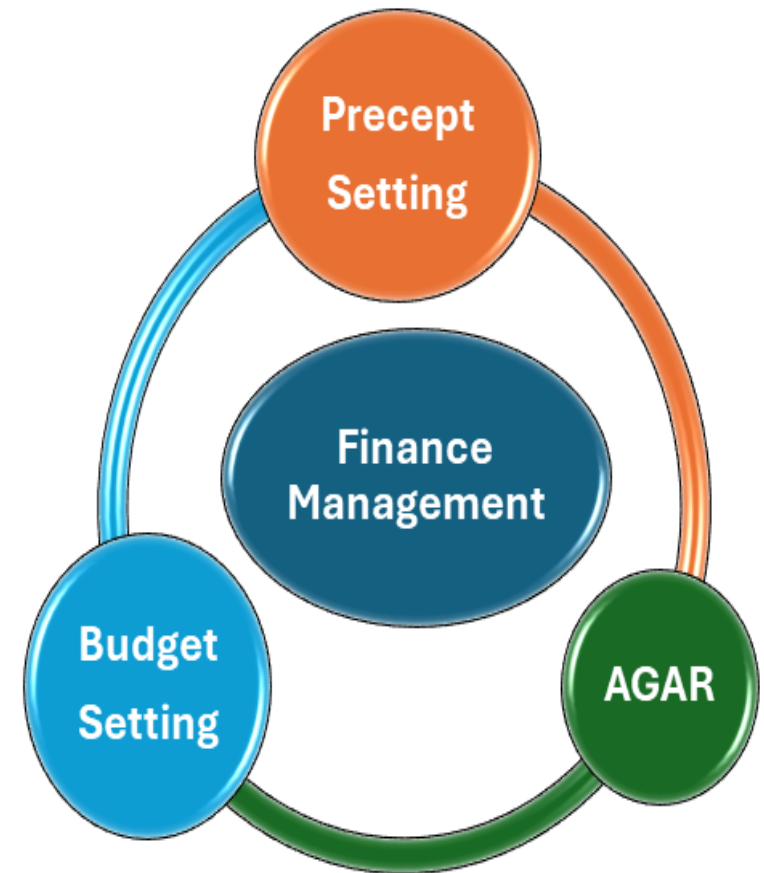
<https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/2024/02/03/girton-parish-council-2024-2025-precept-setting/>

AGAR

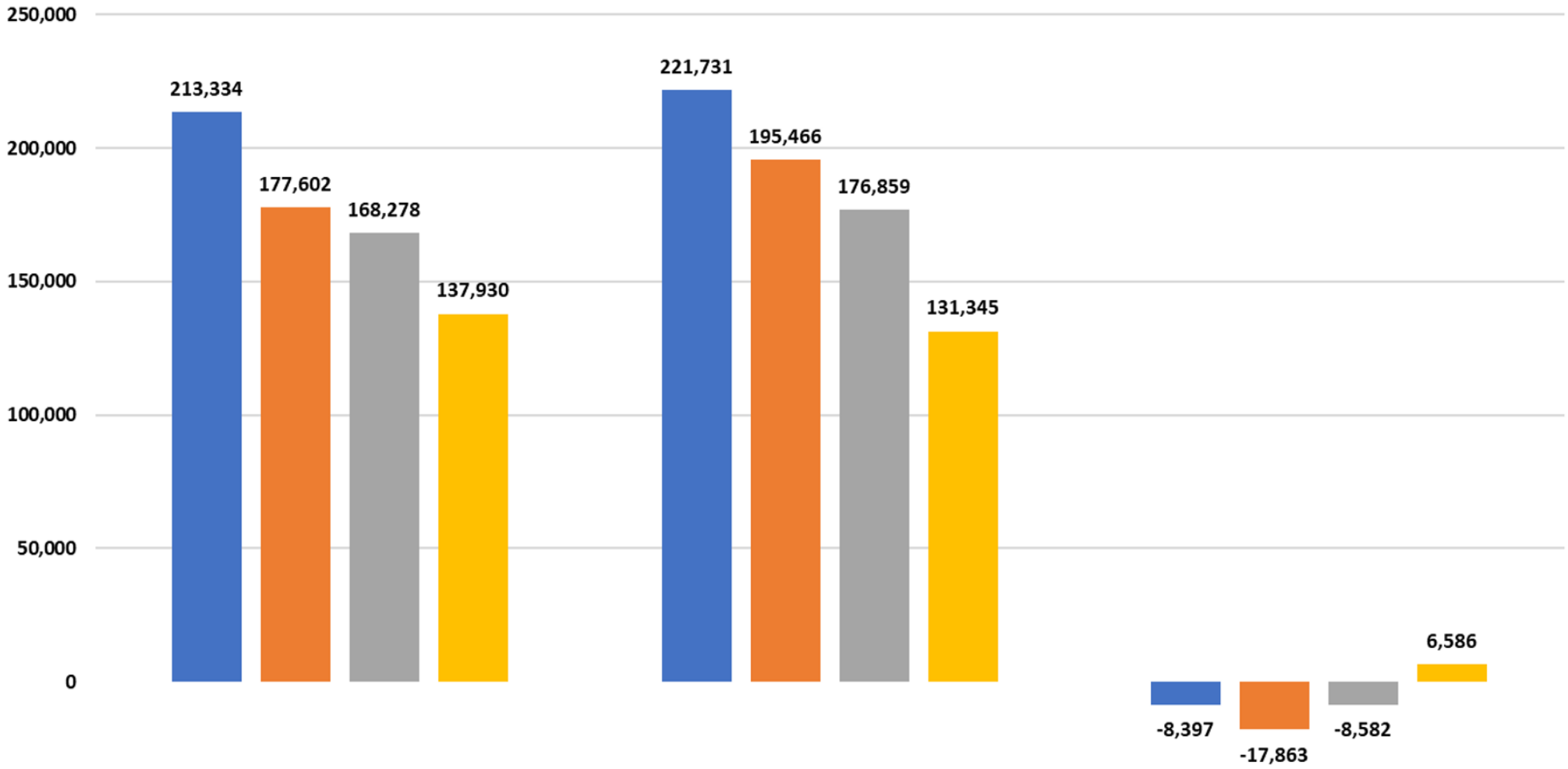
<https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/agar-girton-parish-council>

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

<https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/0.-Girton-Annual-Parish-Meeting-2023-Draft-Minutes-17-May-2023.pdf>



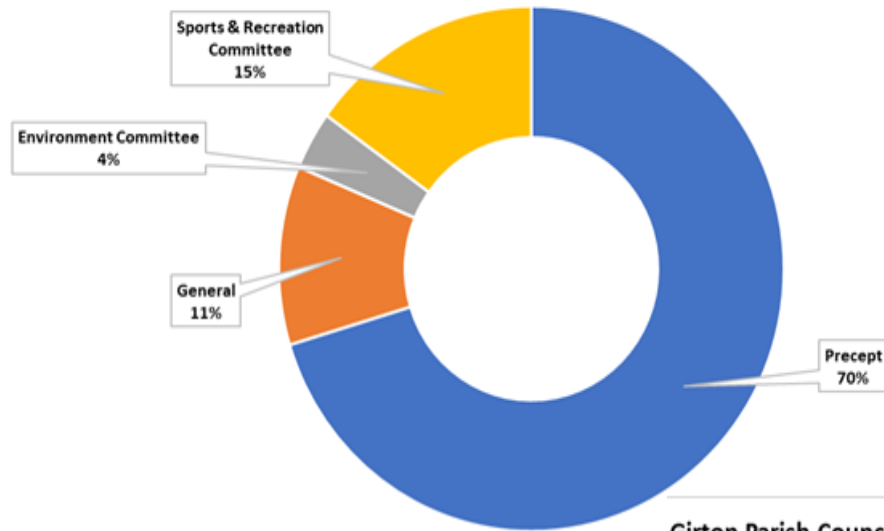
Girton Parish Council - Year-end Income/Expenses



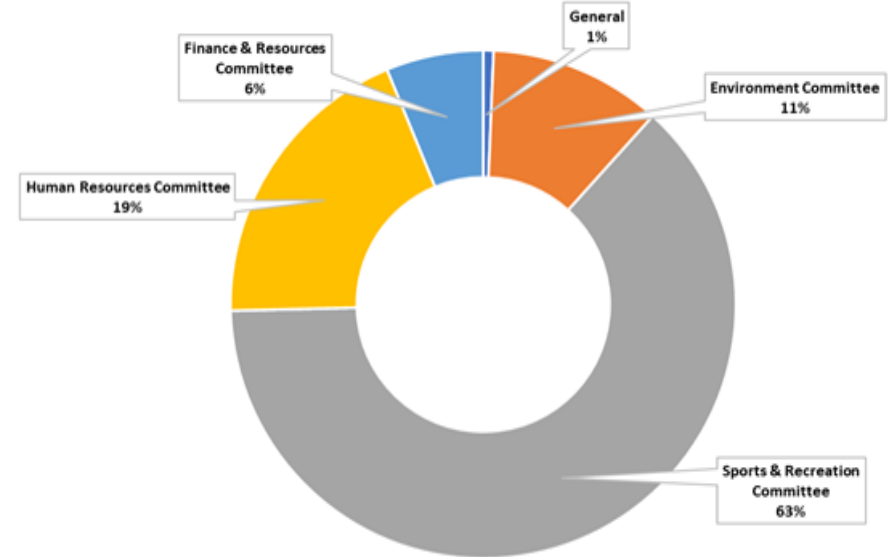
	Income	Expenses	Net Profit
■ 2024	213,334	221,731	-8,397
■ 2023	177,602	195,466	-17,863
■ 2022	168,278	176,859	-8,582
■ 2021	137,930	131,345	6,586

Finance Committee Annual Review

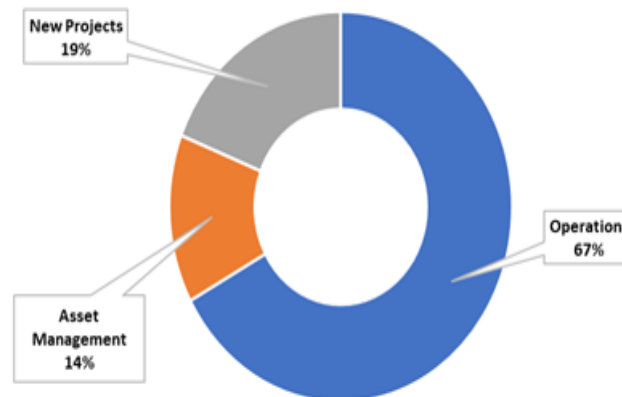
Girton Parish Council - Distribution of Income by Committee
2023/2024



Girton Parish Council - Distribution of Expenses by Committee
2023/2024



Girton Parish Council - Distribution of Expenses by Budget Type
2023/2024



Girton Parish Council - Income & Expenses by Committee 2023/2024

