

Queries on Explanations of Variance 2022-2023

Box 1 – The actual increase of the Precept is 22%, whilst this is over 15%, in real terms the percentage is high because the starting point of £16,400.00 is a low figure. The increase of £3,600.00 (in real terms is a fairly modest figure which can be justified by the substantial increase in costs to the Parish Council in recent years.) The Budget is reviewed regularly and the predictions of expenditure lead to a final Budget being set in December for the following financial year.

There have been 2 new housing developments comprising 23 houses and there are another 41 houses in the offing still to be started, so the Parish is growing quickly (this would represent approximately 315 houses to 379).

The Budget had to allow for 2 extra hours per week for the Clerk, and the National Pay Increase was higher than expected/ National Insurance increased see Box 4 for more details, this increase alone was £2431.00. Grounds Maintenance increased by 24% / £827.00 (£3447.00 to £4274.00). Affiliations, Fees and Administration costs grew from £2425 to £2858 (18% or £434.00.) These figures show why the Precept had to increase.

Box 3- Total Other Receipts. **Substantial** Grants were received in 2021/22 namely:

- £34,727.00 from Climate Change Fund
- £2765.00 from Rural Renaissance Fund
- £2379.00 from RLT/2 Fund
- £700.00 Nuttall Trust Grant

In addition, there were there were receipts of:

- £ 5058.73 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)
- £2720.00 Advertising revenue from Lympsham News
- £1698.15 VAT 126 refund
- £13.02 Interest
- £967.64 Gardening Club Fund
- £584.57 Lympsham in Bloom Fund
- £50.00 Field of the Year prize
- £312.12 Refund from Emorsgate Seeds

Totals = £51,975.23

Total Other Receipts. **Significantly Smaller** Grants were received in 2022/23 namely:

- £2250.00 Nuttall Trust
- £200.00 Bridle Path Maintenance Grant
- £200 .00 Sedgemoor District Council (Jubilee Party)
- £225.00 Lympsham Sports Club (Jubilee Party)

- £1000.00 Lympsham in Bloom Grant
- £150.00 Resident donation (Jubilee Party)

In addition, there were receipts of:

- £15,243.69 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)
- £2115.00 Advertising revenue from Lympsham News
- £1934.61 VAT 126 refund
- £219.72 Interest
- £100.00 Field of the Year Prize

Totals = £23,638.02

Box 6- Other Payments. **Other Payments made in 2021/22 were:**

- £2411.00 Printing Lympsham News Costs
- £1272.00 Dog Bins
- £401.05 Insurance
- £3768.58 Equipment
- £3447.04 Grounds Maintenance
- £288.00 Property Maintenance
- £2425.35 Affiliations, Fees and Administration
- £91.00 Training
- £195.32 Play area bins
- £100.00 Hall Hire

Total £14,399.34

Grants/Donations paid out:

- Climate Change for Sports Club £29,140.00.
- Climate Change for Manor Hall £ 2257.94
- Climate Change for wildflower project £1206.00
- Alzheimer's Society £50.00
- Sedgemoor District Council for Sports Club £2765.00
- Churchyard Grounds Maintenance £750.00
- Jubilee Party £558.16
- Commendation Award £39.70
- Breast Cancer UK £50.00
- Love Lympsham £100.00
- Commendation Awards £100.00
- Lympsham Christmas Market £50.00

Total Grants £37,066.80+ Total Other Payments £14,399.34= £51,466.14

Box 6- Other Payments made in 2022/23 were:

- £2656.00 Printing Lympsham News Costs
- £1248.00 Dog Bins
- £728.57 Insurance
- £367.73 Equipment
- £4274.12 Grounds Maintenance
- £40.00 Property Maintenance
- £2858.01 Affiliations, Fees and Administration
- £76.00 Training
- £292.98 Play area bins
- £220.00 Hall Hire
- £5417.20 CIL Expenditure
- £100.00 Uncontested Election Fee
- £1966.78 Lympsham in Bloom Expenditure
- £1408.50 Jubilee Party
- £60.00 Christmas Tree
- £116.18 Refreshments Annual Parish Meeting

Total £21,830.07

Grants paid out in 2022/23:

- £2563.28 Climate Change for Wildflower project
- £47.14 Chatty Hour (Warm Space initiative)

Total Grants paid out £2,610.42 + other payments £21,830.07 = £24,440.49

In summary, the percentage variances on the AGAR submitted can be seen to be quantified clearly by the above explanations and figures.

Kind regards,

Sally Ferguson –Clerk and RFO Lympsham Parish Council.

26th June 2023