

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

May 2018

Finance

Summary

The year end accounts indicate a positive close to the year, income being marginally above budget whilst expenditure was markedly below, resulting in an overall increase of reserves. The accounts however, have yet to be audited.

Notably, the TIC income / expenditure ended the year ‘cost-neutral’ and the final cost for the Mariners Garden wall repairs (whilst exceeding an expected lower cost) look to be within the original estimated budget provision.

The Council’s finances at year end may be considered sound, allowing for outstanding capital expenditure regarding the Mariners Garden wall repairs and decisions that the Council may make regarding devolution in the year ahead.

In general, the Council’s financial position indicates improved budgetary control

Budget

Total income for 2017/18 exceeded budget by circa £2k.

Total expenditure for 2017/18 was below budget by circa £34.6k however approx. £14.6k has to be allowed against this figure as a carry-over for Mariners Garden invoices already submitted but paid in 2018/19.

The Mariners Garden repair budget for 2017/18 was set at £50k being a 1st year annual portion of the full capital expenditure. Actual payments during 2017/18 amounted to circa £35.4k leaving a budget carry-over of circa £14.6k to be allowed against invoices submitted at year end.

Improved budgetary control has resulted from regular month-on-month review of income / expenditure and the development of a cumulative statement.

Reserves

Cash reserves at year end were £549.3k, up by £59k from the carry forward of £490.3k at the beginning of the year. Against this has to be set the balance for Mariners Garden wall repairs to be paid out of capital (circa £80k - £90k).

Mariners Garden

Repair Costs of £35.4k have been paid during 2017/18

The estimated provision for full repair was set at £125k to be paid out of capital but recovered by an apportioned budget allowance of £25k p.a. spread over 4 years. Grant support of £25k was received from Cornwall Council.

The final repair cost is expected to be close to, but within, the estimated provision. This cost is higher than that anticipated at works ‘tender stage’ and is being duly managed by personnel overseeing the works. Thanks to those who have invested considerable time and effort to push completion.

TIC

The TIC was cost-neutral at year end with an income/expenditure of £36k. This is against a budgeted income of £33.7k and a budgeted expenditure of £35.3k. This represents a hugely significant improvement against previous years losses and both credit and thanks must be given to the TIC and Office staff who have invested so much willing effort in making the TIC a viable community service.

Annual Audit Return

A new External Auditor has been appointed. PKF Littejohn replaces Grant Thornton.

Internal Audit Council Member Checks

Internal Audit Council Member checks have continued during 2017/18 and have been duly reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Cllr Chris Rose has handed the baton to Cllr Trevor Crane. Thanks to both for undertaking this work.

Policies, Procedures and Communication

Standing Orders, Policies & Procedures

Work has continued during the course of the year on the Town Council's Standing Orders, Policies and Procedures.

Standing Orders have been routinely updated and currently reflect the Council's statutory responsibilities and community obligations.

New policies have been introduced and existing policies have been routinely reviewed to ensure that the Council's business activities are reflected in, and covered by, adequate governing documentation.

Thanks

Thanks to Annette for managing the website and keeping it fresh and up-to-date during this past year.

Similarly, the Town Council's Facebook account has proven to be an excellent communications tool for day to day matters. Thanks to Laura for monitoring and managing the Facebook account during the year.

Thanks to Anne for her support and help.

Thanks to all on the Finance & General Purposes Committee for their support during the year and their efforts in progressing the many changes that have been implemented.

Cllr R Hendy

Chairman, F&GP Committee

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