

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-18

Lewknor Parish Council has ended this financial year very slightly over budget but still with a good level of reserves in its bank accounts.

After several years of spending very little, the LPRG&H committee has called on LPC funds quite a lot this year. But the account held by LPC for LPRG&H ends the year still in the black.

S137 spending tipped slightly over the budget but this was because LPC decided, while limiting its donations to a few organisations, it gave more to these worthy causes.

Sundry expenses went over budget because of the need to replace the LPC laptop while clerk's expenses was well down on the forecast.

Grasscutting costs came in under budget; this is always a difficult figure to predict as the amount of cuts is largely based on the weather. It was also the first year LPC took over some of the mowing previously undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council.

The outturn figure for hall rental is skewed because the cheque for the rental in 2016-17 was not cashed until the beginning of this financial year.

With reference to the Annual Return Section 2 – the Accounting Statements, external auditors have always asked for "explanations of variances" where there are differences of more than 10% on the previous year.

LPC has some large variances this time because of some expensive but important and worthy projects: a £4,000 grant to LPRG&H which went to help replace the village hall doors, more than £2,000 to renew the playpark in the playground and the purchase (with the help of a grant) of the much-needed new kissing gates within the parish (in a project spearheaded by the Chiltern Society).

Looking forward to 2018-19 the biggest project affecting the parish will be the Neighbourhood Plan which is now well underway.

Barbara Drysdale

Clerk/RFO

11th April 2018