

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

This year, Lewknor Parish Council (LPC) has helped fund several projects for the village hall, along side the Lewknor Parish Recreation Ground and Hall (LPRG&H). A CCTV system was installed to try to prevent criminal damage and theft; LPC and LPRG&H managed to secure grants totalling £2,350 from Thames Valley Police, the county and district councils to help pay for the system. Other expenditure included: major repairs to the boiler and urgent work to eradicate glis glis from in and around the hall. And LPC has now taken over the hedge cutting and weed killing in the hall grounds. At year end, LPC still has more than £4,000 set aside for LPRG&H.

In the wake of the cost of living crisis, LPC's staffing committee proposed and the full council approved a 4.5% annual pay rise for the Clerk/RFO.

Some of LPC's remaining CIL money was spent buying high visibility jackets for the newly formed Postcombe Speedwatch group, plus Speedwatch signs which have been erected along the A40. Oxfordshire County Council agreed to use its CIL funds to improve the road markings and replacing a broken Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS). It's hoped these measures will reduce the amount of motorists speeding through the village. CIL money was also used to plant bulbs and flowers at the village gates in both Lewknor and Postcombe.

Due to the higher interest rates, LPC has seen a significant increase this year in the amount of interest it has earned on its savings. Last year it was £36, this year it's just over £200. And the fee charged to LPC for the local elections in May was much lower than expected at £200. Petty Cash was lower than predicted mainly due to finding cheaper, more long-lasting but still compatible printer cartridges. And no expenditure was needed on the defibrillators but will be needed in the new financial year.

At the end of the financial year, once the funds ring-fenced for CIL, and money set aside for the Neighbourhood Plan and LPRG&H are deducted, LPC has reserves of just under £6,000.

Barbara Drysdale

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(RFO/Clerk)

April 2024