

# LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL

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## **END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-19**

Lewknor Parish Council's finances this year are skewed by two large receipts: the £5,000 Neighbourhood Plan grant and £4,671 of CIL money. (There will be more CIL funds to come in 2019-2020). Only about £1,000 of the NP money and none of CIL has been spent so far but as they are for specific projects, they should not be considered as part of general expenditure.

So taking these funds out of the equation, LPC has around £15,500 in its reserves at the end of 2018-2019. (And this also includes £2,500 set aside for LPRG&H).

Looking at the Outturn spreadsheet of what has actually been spent, grasscutting is one item which has come in well under budget. As always this expenditure is very hard to predict. Last summer was extremely hot and dry, therefore there was far less grasscutting than usual.

The audit spend was less than budgeted because LPC only had to have an internal audit. No external audit was needed for 2017-18 although parish councils are instructed to budget for one. Looking forward, both these audits will cost more in 2019-2020: LPC has had to find a new internal auditor whose fees are higher than our previous one; and as the NP grant and CIL money have taken LPC receipts over £25,000, LPC will be required to have an external audit for 2018-219.

LPC spent none of the Training budget but I believe it is something we should always budget for. (It could be argued that the SLCC consultant on GDPR, which came out of Sundry Expenses, was to some extent, training). And while there was minimal maintenance this year, it is a category that is unpredictable - with sudden vital expenditure, thus LPC should continue to allocate some funds for maintenance.

The clerk's salary was just about on target (though there is outstanding leave to pay which will come under 2019-20 accounts as it could not formally approved until the end of the financial year). The clerk's expenses were down on what was budgeted.

Dog bin emptying was down on the predicted spend; this is a different one to predict as their billing is very erratic.

Lewknor PCC didn't ask for its £200 grant this year. And LPRG&H haven't asked for any of their allowance this year but as in past years, the committee tends to work on the basis of accumulating a large amount to then use for expensive projects.

S137: LPC went slightly over its budget (but way under what the parish council is allowed to spend) because councillors decided to give slightly more to the worthy causes LPC supports.

Sundry expenses were quite high this year; again the very nature of this category is unpredictable. However, as a lot of this was to pay for re-supplying the parish's defibrillators, perhaps councillors would like to consider introducing a new category in LPC's budget for 2020-21, specifically for the parish's defibrillators.

Annual subscriptions, petty cash, Thame CAB, village hall rental and insurance were all about as predicted.

*Barbara Drysdale*

Clerk/RFO

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019