

**END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-23**

It has generally been a quiet year financially for Lewknor Parish Council, with no major unforeseen expenditure; and it ends the year with an underspend which helps to boost its much reduced reserves.

CIL: the remaining total is just under £10,500. Of this, £1,500 must be spent by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 with the remainder by 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Any unspent funds after that date must be repaid to SODC.

There is also £3,603 left earmarked for the NP but as the SODC grant has now been spent, any remaining funds can revert to LPC's reserves.

LPC has spent more this year than last from its S137 budget (though not over the projected spend). LPC still generally sticks to the rule that it waits for requests for donations. The notable exceptions are the Air Ambulance and Watlington Hospital. And this year, given the cost of living crisis, LPC contacted the Sharing Life Trust which provides a food bank in Thame and made a donation of £200.

LPRG&H has not drawn on LPC's allocated funds this year; this is quite usual as LPRG&H keeps this money for large projects.

There's been a marked (though still small) increase in the interest paid by our bank: last year LPC gained £3 interest, this year £36!

The cost of audits was higher than predicted this year - and is reflected in the increased budget next year. Sundry expenses also went over the projected amount; this is down to the need to replace either batteries or pads for the parish's three defibrillators (these come round every two to four years). This too has been addressed with a new category in LPC's budget in the coming new financial year specifically for the defibrillators.

The greatest underspend was on grasscutting. This is always a hard category to predict and given the major drought last summer, the grass simply did not grow - so very little cutting was needed.

In conclusion, LPC is ending the year with an underspend which helps to increase LPC's reserves which had reduced over the past few years. In all bank accounts, LPC has a total of £24,639.04; but taking off the remaining CIL money that cannot be used for day-to-day expenditure, LPC's total is £14,139. This includes £6,317.18 in the LPRG&H pot and £3,603 still earmarked for the Neighbourhood Plan committee. Therefore, LPC's reserves are now just over £4,200.

*Barbara Drysdale*  
RFO/Clerk

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023