

Clerk's report

Repayment of clerk salary

Salary overpaid due to early set-up of direct debit – excess repaid within the month

Insurance

Insurance renewed on 1st October 2023. Premiums rose as Drinkstone had previously locked into a three year deal that expired last year. Insurance premiums have risen in line with inflation.

The asset register – attached - has been updated to reflect replacement values more accurately – this will have impacted our premium charge.

Playground inspection

I have committed to the annual playground inspection that will be conducted in the next few months.

Parish Council mandate

The link below indicates the powers vested to the council and offers an insight where we might usefully deploy funds.

[DRINKSTONE PARISH Council](#)

Pre booked minibus service

I wrote to all residents to identify an interest in the use of a scheme offering a pre-booked minibus service. I received only one enquiry which indicates that there is no material appetite for this offer.

Publication of the Inspectors' Report on the Examination of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan

I have attached the report from the inspector for review

Budget for 2024-5

The PCC needs to establish a working party in November to identify the precept requirement for 2024/5.

The current precept is £10,042.

Detailed below is an analysis of income and expenditure for the last 6 months which shows a surplus of £6,000. This will be eroded by clerk costs and cost for a childrens' Christmas party however it does indicate that the PCC continues to generate surplus funds.

Income and expenditure for the 6 months ending 30th September 2023

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Precept income | | 10,042.00 |
| VAT rebate | | 907.47 |
| Total income | | 10,949.47 |
| Expenses | | |
| | Clerk salary | (1,750.00) |
| | Room hire | (90.00) |
| | Daffodils/Garden Top | |
| | Services | (1,423.74) |
| | SALC | (797.27) |
| | Coronation party | (147.11) |
| | Bank charges | (18.00) |
| | Audit | (160.00) |
| | Other | (80.00) |
| | Insurance | (384.95) |
| Total expenses | | (4,851.07) |
| Cash surplus | | 6,098.40 |

Michael Walton

Drinkstone Clerk

01/10/2023