

# **COLLINGHAM** *Parish Council*

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12 MARCH 2015**

### **ANNUAL RETURN 2013/14**

Grant Thornton, the Parish Council's External Auditor gave the opinion that the information in the 2013/14 Return was in accordance with proper practices on 24 September 2014. Copies of the Return were made available for public inspection and are available on request.

### **2014/15**

#### **INCOME**

- The year started with the Precept of £22,432 and a Support Grant of £968. The Support Grant from Newark & Sherwood District Council; this will continue to be reduced by 25% each year.
- We receive an annual grant of £1221 from Nottinghamshire County Council towards grass cutting.
- VAT claims are all up to date and being submitted at least quarterly. If any large bills are received VAT is reclaimed at the next month end.
- Burial Ground fee income stands at £1890 received in the year to date (£1855 last year), so broadly comparable.
- Donations for both Defibrillators and the Community Park have continued to be received.

#### **EXPENDITURE**

- Grounds Maintenance\* continues to be one of our largest expense at £7190 per annum.
- Section 137\*\* grants (Local Government Act 1972) from the Parish Council have not been paid again this year. Collingham Parish Council produced new policy guidelines published in April to make our application and payments system open and transparent, following which no applications have been received in the approved manner.
- The Parish Council has purchased the first two defibrillators
- Work has begun on the Community Park, the construction of which is anticipated to be complete by the end of March.
- With the departure of the previous Clerk in April, there has been a small saving in salary over the year

### **LOOKING FORWARD to 2015/16**

We start the new financial year in a good position, with balances of:

- £37,902.20 in the Parish Council's Current Account – around £5,000 is reserved for the purchase of further defibrillator units for the village, which are currently on order. £13,000 is from a recent VAT refund and £2,127.97 from the Small business rates refund, which has been backdated for 5 years. The Parish Council also agreed the amount of £13,896.47 to be transferred to the Capital Revenue account following the final account being received from the solicitor in relation to the sale of land (see below). There is also £10,000 grant received from Lincolnshire Co-operative Society to be transferred to the Reserve Account.
- £59602.91 in the Community Park Current Account, which is the contribution from the Parish Council along with all the grants and donations received.
- £27,500.00 in the Reserve Account as at 28 February.
- £121,479.73 in the Capital Revenue account from the sale of land. This money is for the funding of capital improvements to council assets and/or acquisition of new capital assets.

The precept has been increased by a small percentage this year from £22432 to £23195. This increase in precept is in order to offset the reduction in Parish Grant from Newark and Sherwood District Council from £968 to £650 and the increase in fixed commitments such as dog bin emptying, business rates etc.

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The new Clerk now produces the accounts using Excel rather than specialist software, which has resulted in a saving of the licence fee, and the information being presented in a format that is clear and understandable for everyone.

- \* Grounds Maintenance - includes the cutting of all verges within the 30 mph signs in Collingham; cutting grass and hedges of the Cross Site, Village Centre, Community Orchard and Burial Ground.
- \*\* S 137 grants - are made under the powers of the Local Government Act 1972 to spend money, subject to a statutory limit, for the direct benefit of its area, or part of an area, or all or some of its inhabitants.