

# Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council

## RFO Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

<b>Opening bank balances at the start of the year:</b>	<b>£104,944</b>
<b>Closing balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023:</b>	<b>£68,425</b>
<b>Income receipts through the year amounted to:</b>	<b>£220,776</b>
<b>Total expenditure for the year:</b>	<b>£257,295</b>
<b>Budgeted expenditure for the year was:</b>	<b>£96,515</b>
<b>Budget income for the year was:</b>	<b>£88,221</b>

The variance between the budgeted income and expenditure and the actual income and expenditure is explained in most part by:

- a) completion of the MUGA project - £113,000 + VAT £22,000
- b) repair of St. Luke's cemetery wall - £9,500
- c) clearance of Webbers Meadow culvert - £3,000
- d) replacement of damaged play equipment - £4,800
- e) purchase of a new footbridge for Venn Ottery Village Green - £2,750

The only major variance in budgeted income resulted from the drawdown of S.106 funding from EDDC to pay for the MUGA installation.

Through the year Council has invested in a number of additional assets including picnic benches for Webbers Meadow, a replacement footbridge for Venn Ottery Village Green and a mower for the allotment gardens. Council is extremely grateful to individual donors and the Community Café for providing funds to enable Council to purchase a power sweeper for the new MUGA and new benches for Meadow Drive, the Playing Field and the Burrow 'Triangle' to further enhance our village amenities. Thanks must also go to the Climate Change Group for applying for and obtaining funding to enable a huge amount of hedging and tree planting to take place early this year at no cost to the Council, the benefits of which can already be seen throughout the parish. In terms of community events, the parish hosted a 3-day Jubilee celebration in June and held the annual Fireworks event in November.

Through the year Council gave grants to the following organisations and community groups:

Poppets Playgroup	£200
Harpford Village Hall (to assist with WiFi installation)	£200
Exmouth Community Transport	£345
Venn Ottery & Southerton Residents Association (Jubilee event)	£200

Any groups or organisations who wish to apply for funding this year can do so until 31<sup>st</sup> May – details on the website or from the Clerk.

The precept for 2022-23 remained at £47,500 - unchanged from the two previous financial years. Reluctantly, Council decided that, to publish a balanced budget for the forthcoming year, an increase in the precept would be required. The precept for 2023-24 is equivalent to £70.42 per year for a Band D property – an increase of 40 pence per week on last years charge. Council believes that for this additional amount it can continue to improve amenities and services in the parish despite increasing costs and a reduction in income from other sources.

**Jacqui Baldwin**

**Responsible Financial Officer**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**