

Hunston Parish Meeting

Treasurer's report for Year ended 31 March 2023

1 Summary

- Income for the year was **£10,380.13** (2022: £10,651.39).
- The Parish Meeting generated a **cash deficit** of **£4,953.79** for the year (2022: surplus of £7,209.88).
- This deficit was due mainly to the cost of refurbishing and maintaining the cottage between tenants, the lack of rental income whilst it was vacant and some significant maintenance expenses during the current tenancy.
- Expenditure during the year fell into four main categories – see the notes to the accounts for a more detailed breakdown.

▪ Cottage refurbishment	£6,622.07
▪ Cottage general overheads:	£5,047.01
▪ Defibrillator	£2,481.63
▪ General Parish costs:	£1,183.21
▪ TOTAL:	£15,333.92
- Cash reserves on 31st March were **£20,080.45** (2022: £25,034.24)
- Net Current Assets were **£19,682.65** (2022: £25,225.70)

2 The Cottage

- We approved a budget of £7,500 to refurbish the Cottage between tenants; in the event the cost was £6,622.
- The cottage has been let since July 2022 at a rate of £10,740 pa.
- If the cottage were to be unlet, the Parish could incur a deficit of approximately £5,000 per annum, raising the possibility of levying a Precept if reserves are exhausted.

3 Future expenses for approval

- The annual cost of the Parish Magazine is £246 - this expenditure needs to be considered annually at the AGM.
- The Coronation celebrations include a Marquee (£672) and other expenses. After discussion with those organising the event, **I recommend that we approve a budget of £1,250**. NOTE: We have already paid a deposit of £201.60 for the marquee.

4 Statutory requirements:

4.1 Audit and Governance

- Under current statutory arrangements, PKF Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as our External Auditor.
- However, as neither our income nor our expenditure exceeds £25,000 pa, and subject to some other qualifying criteria (see Paragraph 6 below) we can declare ourselves exempt from the need for an external audit (which would cost at least £200).
- The Parish Meeting must still conduct an Internal Audit.
- The Parish Meeting must also approve an Annual Governance Statement (see Paragraph 5 below) and allow the exercise of certain public rights (see Paragraph 7 below).

4.2 Decisions to be taken

The six resolutions we need to consider are:

1. Do we approve paying £246 for the Parish Magazine?
2. Do we approve a budget of £1,250 for the coronation celebrations?
3. Do we agree that the accounts fairly present the financial position of the Parish Meeting for the year ended 31 March 2023?
4. Do we agree that we approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (Paragraph 5, below)?
5. Do we certify that, as we satisfy the qualifying criteria and as our annual gross income and gross expenditure for the year to 31 March 2023 was respectively £25,000 or less, Hunston Parish Meeting is exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and hence that we authorise the completion and signing of the Certificate of Exemption?
6. That the commencement date for the exercise of public rights be set as Monday 12th June 2023 and that from that date until Friday 21st July 2023 inclusive the accounts and accounting records will be available for public inspection.

5 Annual Governance Statement

In approving the Annual Governance Statement, we are confirming to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

- 1) We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.
- 2) We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.
- 3) We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this Parish Meeting to conduct its business or manage its finances.
- 4) We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 5) We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this Parish Meeting and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.
- 6) We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.
- 7) We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.
- 8) We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this Parish Meeting and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.

6 The Qualifying Criteria

The qualifying criteria for an authority to declare itself as exempt from External Audit are:

- 1) The parish has no Parish Council
- 2) The Parish Meeting has been in existence since before 1 April 2018
- 3) In relation to the preceding financial year (2021/22), the external auditor has not:
 - a) Issued a public interest report in respect of the Parish Meeting or any entity connected with it
 - b) made a statutory recommendation to the Parish Meeting
 - c) issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and not withdrawn the notice
 - d) commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act

- e) made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- 4) The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.
- 5) The Parish Meeting neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000.

7 Exercise of Public Rights

- 1) The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Meeting, must set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights.
- 2) From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the approved accounts and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period is set must include the first ten working days of July.
- 3) The Parish Meeting must publish the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, before 1 July 2023.