



Speeding always remains a concern in the village and the SID unit, Speed Indicator Unit, which has been placed at various points around the village is proving useful. However it was stolen in October and we have had to replace it. Someone with a guilty conscience perhaps! The new Speed Watch group has been formed and operates independently of the Parish Council but with our thanks for the work they will do after completing all the training. The police have also done some speed checks in the area and I understand they issued several tickets.

Our clerk, Jo Jones, continues to be invaluable to the council and to me as Chair of the Parish Council. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to all my colleagues on the council and to Alistair Boniface, my deputy chair, for their continued support last year.

My grateful thanks go to the WI ladies who continue providing flowers for and cultivating the bed at the top of Fir Tree Hill. I think you'll agree that the flowers are a delight and improve the look of the village. We also very much appreciate the work of Robert Atkinson in keeping our village clean and tidy.

The Parish Council website is very user friendly, please take a look and it keeps everyone up to date on the doings of your Parish Council.

Thank you for listening to me and if you have any questions I will do my best to answer them.

## 6. REPORTS

### i) Clerk – Finance Report

The Clerk presented the Finance Statement.

#### Finance Statement – Unaudited Accounts Receipts and Payments 2023/24

RECEIPTS	Actual to 31-03-2023	2023/24 Budget	Actual to 31-03-24	
<b>Carried Forward</b>				
General funds and reserves	29,532.21	29,796.68	29,796.68	
Precept	22,887.42	23,364.95	23,364.95	
VAT	456.88	843.43	843.43	
Interest	35.54	50.00	109.05	Note 1
Heating system payback	1,481.62	1,500.00	1,852.00	
Other - Donation, Wayleave, Village Hall rent/Flagpole refund	244.50	0.00	80.15	Note 2
Grant - DDC & KCC Jubilee Grants/Insurance Claim	570.00	0.00	3,618.00	Note 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,208.17</b>	<b>55,555.06</b>	<b>59,664.26</b>	
PAYMENTS	Actual to 31-03-2023	2023/24 Budget	Actual to 31-03-24	
<b>Salaries</b>				
Clerk	4,936.60	5,000.00	5,387.91	Note 4
Environment Engineer	1,907.40	1,920.00	2,103.08	Note 4
Employer Pension Contribution	1,191.94	1,150.00	1,383.78	Note 4
	<b>8035.94</b>	<b>8070.00</b>	<b>8874.77</b>	
Admin Costs				
General	383.40	520.00	520.50	
Postage, stationery, consumables	253.19	250.00	215.84	

Insurance	476.66	520.00	511.35	
Bank Charges	72.00	72.00	72.00	
Audit Fees	234.47	250.00	244.00	
Annual Meeting	37.06	100.00	42.69	
Hall Hire	242.00	264.00	225.50	
Village Hall - Container & Re-Lining Car Prk/Doors	3,814.00	5,000.00	4,609.74	Note 5
Village Green Mowing & Grounds Maintenance	1,800.00	2,000.00	1,305.00	
Play Area Safety Inspection/Maintenance	417.35	400.00	492.95	Note 6
Councillor Expenses	0.00	400.00		
Training	259.44	200.00	122.68	
Church Yard Grant LGA 1972 Sect 214/215	750.00	750.00	750.00	
Grants & Poppy Wreath	790.00	770.00	770.00	
Section 137	0.00	200.00	-	
Equip Handyman	0.00	100.00	-	
Flower Beds	39.53	100.00	121.61	
Membership	482.84	500.00	492.63	
VAT	843.43	0.00	1,459.28	
Election Costs (saving for 2027)	0.00	3,000.00	147.23	
Contingency - Repaid 2018 KCC Grant Underspend	54.30	1,041.52	-	
Loan Repayment scheduled	3,397.54	3,397.54	3,397.54	
Reserves	0.00	20,000.00	-	
Defibrillator Parts	50.00	300.00	56.95	
Speed Indicator Device	70.50	150.00	3,718.00	Note 7
Events	0.00	200.00	-	
Highways Improvement plan	907.05	4000.00	18.87	Note 8
Web Site	460.00	500.00	460.00	
Improving Village Environment/Gym Equip	70.79	0.00	-	
Flag pole	0.00	2,500.00	787.26	Note 9
Beacon & Jubilee bottles/ Gate for Green	1,470.00	-	708.00	Note 10
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,411.49</b>	<b>55,555.06</b>	<b>30,124.39</b>	
Bank Reconciliation to 31-03-24				
NW Current Card Account	330.77	Op Bal	29,796.68	
NW Reserve Account 539	8,225.43	Receipts	29,867.58	
Unity Trust Bank	20,983.67	Payments	30,124.39	
	29,539.87		29,539.87	

Note 1 - Higher interest rates this year

Note 2 - Refund on damaged flag pole

Note 3 - Insurance claim for stolen Mini-SID

Note 4 - Nationally agreed pay rise higher than anticipated

Note 5 - Replacement doors for Village Hall

Note 6 - Play area inspections and two repairs

Note 7 - Replacement Mini-SID

Note 8 - Materials for 30mph banner supports

Note 9 - Flag pole & installation & flags

Note 10 - Field gate for Green

The Clerk answered a question about the Highway Improvement Plan.

**ii) District Councillor Dan Friend**

District Cllr Dan Friend's report included the Precept, garden waste collection costs, social rents, car parking charges, changes to the Port Health Authority checks and planning fees and the DDC grants scheme. He also took questions about the green waste collection scheme and reported that the proposed closure of Richborough HWRC is currently off the table.

**iii) County Councillor Sue Chandler**

Kent County Council Chandler's report included the lack of funding for local government and the escalating costs incurred, it also covered Highways, Highway Improvement plans, Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre, planning initiatives, Adult and Children's Social Care costs and Environmental initiatives.

Kent County Cllr Chandler explained that through the year she had worked on a wide range of issues including, environmental, social care and public rights of way issues and would continue to do so and welcomed the opportunity to come to Parish council meetings and thanked all of the volunteers, including the Parish Councillors for everything that they do.

**KCC Member for Sandwich and the Villages**, Email: [Sue.Chandler@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.Chandler@kent.gov.uk) 07989134576

Cty Cllr Chandler then answered questions on unaccompanied Asylum-seeking children and the increased costs of adult and children's social care.

The Chair then thanked Cty Cllr Chandler and Dist Cllr Friend for all of their hard work for us. Everyone was thanked for coming. A member of the public thanked the Parish Council and detailed the success that they had had reporting potholes.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm