

Finance Summary for Mayor's Report 2019

The town council precept for the financial year 2018-2019 was set in the sum of £439,742 and once again I am pleased to report that the council has contained all expenditure within available resources.

The precept increased substantially 2 years ago in preparation for taking on the Library Service, including the One-Stop-Shop. Negotiations with Cornwall Council are continuing and it is anticipated that the transfer will occur in the next month or so.

The most major project the council focussed on this year was the improvements to the War Memorial. The council wanted to enhance the area and give the memorial greater presence in time for the centenary that marked the end of the First World War. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful in its application to the War Memorials Trust so funded the whole project itself, which was completed in October. We worked with several partners and contractors to bring the scheme to reality and below the anticipated cost.

The town council continued to maintain and, where possible, upgrade the Amenity Sites. Work has commenced with a view to producing a long-term management plan for The Millponds. The town council invested in replacement decorative lights which were installed along the King George V Memorial Walk and Hayle Recreation Ground just before Christmas. They will also be switched on during the summer peak weeks. The council didn't actually budget for these works but instead was able to use money that had been accumulated in the general reserves. Significant resources have been ploughed into maintaining and upgrading the existing play pieces at the Recreation Ground, most recently the aerial pulley swing had a major overhaul. The gardener continues to maintain and enhance the King George V Memorial Walk, along with a number of volunteers from Hayle in Bloom. Unfortunately, vandalism to all facilities continues to be a major problem, particularly the public conveniences located at Hayle Recreation Ground. This keeps the staff more than busy and costs large sums of money, both of which could be better utilised elsewhere.

I am pleased to report that the Swimming Pool another a good season in terms of both the numbers attending and the income received. Thankfully it required little additional financial input during the last financial year as it had received quite an overhaul for the previous season.

The Community Centre remains in a position where there is a requirement to support its operation through the precept. However, during the last 12 months there has been a steady increase in casual bookings, despite the council implementing a 5% rise in hire charges. The council has more recently undertaken a rent review for all tenants and the new rates will be applied upon renewal of the existing leases. These measures should mean reduce the impact on the next precept to a negligible amount if anything at all.

During the course of the year the council, following up on an earlier resolution regarding going paperless and reducing printing and postage costs, agreed to purchase laptops for each councillor. In order to accommodate this, the council had to also increase the number of power points available in the meeting room and to also upgrade the wifi network. Again, these costs

had not been built into the budget but there was money available in the general reserves to cover these expenses. In the long term, it is anticipated that there will be savings to counter these costs.

With regard to the council's general operational budget, this has functioned largely within the original estimates with any marginal overspend in one budget heading being offset by underspends in others.

During the course of the financial year, the council awarded grant aid in excess of £3,300 to assist local organisations including the Hayle Cricket Club, Hayle Carnival Committee, Heyl Town Band, Hayle Rotary Club, Angarrack Christmas Lights, One and All Choir, Hayle's Heart to Heart Appeal, Hayle Old Cornwall Society, Angarrack Community Centre and Hayle Twinning Association. Smaller token grants were also given to other fundraising organisations such as Cruse Bereavement Care, CHICKS Respite Care, Victim Support and Merlin MS Centre.

In addition to the small grants listed previously, the council also awards annual grants to organisations such as Hayle Day Care Centre, Hayle in Bloom, Hayle Decorative Lighting Committee and Cornwall Wildlife Trust (towards the costs of the part-time Towans Ranger) all of which provide vital service to and/or greatly enhance our town.

The town council continues to operate a sound investment policy in relation to its reserves and indeed the overall financial position of the authority remains strong.

In conclusion, I would again assure the people of Hayle that the town council will continue to ensure that it discharges its statutory function and provides support for the community to the best of its ability within limited but well-managed resources.