

Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council's accounts are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis, in summary:

Total Receipts for the year were £31,192 of which 98% was made up of the precept (£30540).

VAT reclaim (£500) from HMRC was received, and the remaining receipts were made up of £22 from Clive Parish Council contributions to Zoom Pro subscription, and £130 from local fundraising efforts to support those affected by the Ukraine Conflict. This £130 was subsequently donated to the International Red Cross.

Total Payments for the year were £18,561, these are summarised below:

	£	%
Administration	9407	50.7%
Cliffe maintenance	3000	16.2%
Village Hanging Baskets	1213	6.5%
Road Safety	1095	5.9%
Village Maintenance	1031	5.6%
St Lighting Mtce & Energy	965	5.2%
Contingency	474	2.6%
Insurance	401	2.2%
VAT	389	2.1%
Training	270	1.5%
Local Grants	200	1.1%
AED scheme	99	0.5%
Climate emergency	18	0.1%

Total payments were 38% under budget for the 2021-22 year. Some budgets were underspent due to invoices not arriving in time for payment before year-end (e.g. groundwork for wildflower meadow), and National Salary Award increases not being agreed in time for the final payroll of the year. The following budgets were significantly underspent at year-end: Streetlighting and maintenance, Village and grounds maintenance (invoice awaited), local grants, youth grants, contingency, Safer Roads, and VAT. Some budget headers for 2022-23 have been reduced to ensure that the Council is not requesting more precept than is likely to be spent in the year.

Local Grants were made up of:

£200 Home Grown Show

These were made using the Council's General Power of Competence.

Additional donations were made (under the Contingency budget header) to International Red Cross to support people affected by the Ukraine Conflict. A donation to ICRC of £130 was made using funds received from local fundraising efforts, and the Parish Council made a separate donation of £170 to the ICRC from its own funds. These donations were also made using the General Power of Competence.

Administration Costs include Staff Costs £7,451, Audit fees £376, Annual Subscriptions £607, Stationery & Printing, Meeting costs, bank fees, website and email costs, etc., (£973 combined).

Contingency spending was made up of:

£300 2 x donations to Intl Red Cross for Ukraine
£105 electrical connection of new AED cabinet
£30 replacement metal poppies for War Memorial
£27 unplanned village maintenance (strimming paths in Spinney)
£10 Sanitising products for Council meetings
£2 Thank you card

Total Funds as at 31st March 2021 £57,031, these are held at Unity trust Ltd. Earmarked reserves balance was £22,833 at year end, which gives a general reserve balance of £34,198 (14 months Net Revenue Expenditure) which is slightly more than recommended for a Council of this size (closer to 12 months' NRE). It is however expected that there will be additional expenditure in 2022-23 (e.g. for Streetlight repairs, signage for Cliffe), which will use up some of this surplus to bring General Reserves back within recommended levels. The Parish Council also plans to move some General Reserves into different Earmarked reserves headers for specific projects.

Contingent Assets & Liabilities: The Parish Council has submitted a reclaim for most of the VAT spent during the 2021-22 year, i.e., £375 (as not all VAT is recoverable). There is no formally committed expenditure so far for 2022-23, though the Parish Council intends to install new signage around the Cliffe and there may well be some expenditure for cleaning/maintaining the War Memorial. In April there was a collision between an HGV and the Stone Cross in Ruyton XI Towns. This is currently under investigation to assess the damage and possible cost of repairs, and there may well be some initial outlay from the Parish Council. This matter will undoubtedly impact the Parish Council's annual insurance costs and is likely to mean an increase in premium for 2022-23. However, we understand that our insurers will aim to recover this (and any excess) from the other party when settling the claim.

Banking for 2022-23

At the start of April 2022, the Parish Council's total funds were over the £85k limit for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (due to a large CIL Neighbourhood Fund receipt). This means the Parish Council may need to open a separate savings account with another bank to reduce the risk of unrecoverable loss.

Report prepared by Mrs Lydia Bardsley

Clerk/RFO Ruyton XI Towns PC