

## Ash Parish Council Finance Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 19 April 2010

The estimated **receipts** are £66,459 and with the balance carried over of £26,192 this gives a total of £92,651. The current situation with the banks has meant that interest earned on the reserve account has dropped from £728 to £22. The sale of books and walk cards has also dropped. There were no grants applied for this year however, there is an application in the pipe-line for the County Councillor's Highway Fund for traffic calming.

**Payments** of £60,296 includes the new contribution to DDC of £1,950 for The Street Public Conveniences and the bulb planting and environment works also for £1,950 which was grant funded from the previous year. The actual figure for the insurance costs was £3,260 which includes a 2% increase on the valuations for the building cover. The decrease in subscriptions was due to last year including two prior year payments. The PCSO costs cover January to December. The Parish Plan monies were re-imbursed from the grant they received. Repairs and renewals for the village were down as the only new item was the bin for Pound Corner. The Recreation Ground maintenance was lower as last autumn there had been less repair work needed. Tree surgery costs were higher as one of the ash trees had to be taken down on the Recreation Ground and work was carried out on Burford's Alley.

The **closing balances** are £12,544 for money which is already allocated or going towards new projects including nearly £3,000 towards the Youth Project and a reserve towards the PCSO. The £20,000 general reserves or approximately 28% of the precept will be kept as a contingency fund for the current financial year. The auditor will allow up to 40% of the precept but it was felt this was too high a figure for the needs of this parish.

The **current budget** has set the precept at £71,000. Nearly £10,000 will go to pay DDC to cover the costs of keeping The Street Public Conveniences open. This covers costs of cleaning, opening and shutting, insurance, utilities and actual prior year repairs. Without the payment to DDC, the increase from £60,240 to £61,145 was 1.5% or £903 over last year.

The **projected expenditure** is £25,000 less than last year as there are no new major projects planned. The council, however, does want to complete the gateway entrances to the village in conjunction with having the speed limit on Sandwich Road lowered to 30mph.

Projected expenditure on administration is slightly higher from £3,000 to £3,300 as there may be some costs for the local needs housing survey which will need to be done again. Direct employment costs are increasing by £1,100 to £24,000, mainly due to increased pension contributions and the cost for a PCSO is now £13,500. Grants have been allocated at £4,700 and the Dog Warden at £500. The on-going maintenance costs have not increased due to the skills and hard work of the Environment Assistant, Mr Wilkinson..

The Ash Parish Council has agreed a balanced budget for 2010 - 2011, with expenditure matching income and the contingency fund as mentioned earlier coming from reserves.

Mrs C Haggart  
Clerk