

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Thursday 22nd March 2012

Accounts & Finance

As we are not yet at the end of March 2012 the accounts for the end of this period are not yet completed, however, as soon as they have been approved by the Parish Council they are submitted to the External Auditor and publicly advertised in accordance with the regulations.

You will I am sure, be pleased to know that the Precept (the amount we ask for from the Council Tax which you pay direct to NNDC) has not increased for the past 4 years, and remains at £23,000. We are able to manage this due to the fact that the Precept represents approximately a quarter of our income, with the main income being derived from the Carnser Car Park. Other income is achieved via the Trading Sites, Recycling Credits and other various smaller income streams. Of course the reality is that the Parish Councils costs are also increasing each year, just as they do for each of us at home, and the Councillors are reminded of this each year at budget time when they aim to make the best decision for the parish and are having to look up to 17 months ahead.

Whilst we are extremely fortunate to have other income, we are not shy when it comes to ploughing it back into the parish. Just this evening you will see that we have distributed £5,200 to 13 local community groups via grants. They cover children of Pre-School age through to the more senior members of our community, and cover social groups, to housing and care groups all of whom provide something to the people of this village, and to whom we are indeed very grateful. The village would not be what it is without them.

In addition to this, in the past year alone we have spent money on providing and maintaining all manner of items from new Christmas lights along the quayside, to maintaining footpaths and car parks, putting on a community bonfire and fireworks event and providing and maintaining a number of dog bins. We have tried to keep the street lights shining, and are currently embarking upon the total refurbishment of one of the Memorial Cottages along with a number of other things that the Chairman will have touched upon. Running costs alone in terms of insurance, rates and administration soon adds up but alas are all items that have to be paid. In brief, we look after everything from the slipway painting, to refurbishing our 3 car parks, running a successful pay & display car park in conjunction with the National Trust, to maintaining two cottages and the Parish Office, and of course the conversion of the bus shelter is our next exciting project!

Blakeney Parish Council always has an eye on the future and continues to earmark a sum of money which we hope to one day be able to put towards affordable housing for local people in Blakeney. In addition to this, we have a substantial sum earmarked for infrastructure; not specifically roads, but physical action items, such as youth facility provision and the conversion of the brick bus shelter as per our current plans, hence we will soon be tapping into this pot, we hope!

We are also looking forward to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June of this year and have set aside a sum of money to allow the committee to plan a weekend of events which we hope will be enjoyed by the whole community.

(Talking of money, whilst it will not save the Parish Council money, I have placed copy of an oil bulk buying scheme on each chair, which may save you money. The most I have heard of is a saving of 14p per litre which equates to £140 on a 1000 litre delivery, which is seriously worth thinking about....)

(Tracey Bayfield)

21st March 2012