

Stainton & Thornton Parish Council

The Report of the Responsible Financial Officer (on behalf of The Clerk)

On the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010

The Accounts of the Parish Council incorporate the accounts of the Stainton & Thornton Quarry Management Group as was the case last year.

The **Capital Statement** shows a valance of £5334.42 at the start of the 2009/10 financial year and £3621.81 at the end of the year. What is not shown is that the excess of payments over receipts of £1712.51 is due to £1554.43 excess of payments over receipts by the Quarry Management Group and only £158.08 excess of payments over receipts in the Parish Council 'General Account'. The 2009/10 budget was for ££460.00 excess of payments over receipts in the 'general account'. There was therefore less overspend than the budget. The Parish Council therefore starts the 2010/11 financial year with £845.96 in the 'general account' compared with the budget outturn of £459.00.

The **Receipts & Payments Account**, on the Receipts side, shows the Precept maintained at £5000.00 but a collapse in Bank interest to £4.20. The unexpected Calor Village of the Year awards of £350 were very welcome.

On the Payments side of the Account, the **Administration Expenses** of £3394.18 are an increase of 10.3% despite a significant reduction in the insurance premium following the change from Allianz Cornhill to Aviva Insurance. There were large increases in 'Clerk's expenses' and for 'Printing, Stationery and computer expenses'. Compared with the budget of £3230.00, the main differences were the reduction in the cost of insurance, the much higher costs of clerk's expenses and printing, stationery and computer expenses and showing the Clerk's training costs and travelling expenses elsewhere under the Regular Annual Expenses heading.

The **Regular Annual Expenses** of £2046.26 were an increase of 45.8% compared with the previous year and £811.26 more than budget. This is misleading because the clerk's training costs and travelling expenses should be treated as Administration Expenses, and the 'Work at Quarry Drive' is definitely not a Regular Annual Expense and the 'Christmas Lights' work has always previously come under the 'Other Expenses' heading. Discounting these items would make the 'Regular Annual Expenses' only £1274.82 compared with the budget of £1235.00.

'the cost of erecting and dismantling the Christmas Lights and the work of installing a membrane and pebbles etc. at the bollards in Quarry Drive were shown with the Gala Day contribution, the Other Expenses would have been £522.56 compared with the budget of £1170. No troughs and planters were bought last year from the budget of £100 and only £50 of the Gala Day budget of £300 was required.

It is worrying that the Administration Expenses including training costs and travelling expenses at £3675.83 are escalating and preventing the Parish Council from funding visible facilities and services which benefit the residents. The increase in the precept for 2010/11 to £5,500 will help but it will still be difficult to find enough money to purchase new Christmas Lights.

21/05/10

Cllr. Maelor Williams, Stainton & Thornton Parish Council Chair.