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**From the Responsible Financial Officer**

**Notes to Annual Return for Year Ended 31 March 2019**

I confirm that the basis of accounts is Receipts and Payments.

I confirm that we do not use the general power of competence.

I confirm that the dates scheduled for the period for the exercise of public rights are June 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Box 1 – Balances brought forward (2018 - £5,187/2019 - £8,794)**

The balance brought forward was higher than the previous year. With the higher precept and lower spending on S137 the PC was able to increase reserves, this being partly due to expected legal expenses not yet transpiring.

**Box 2 – Precept or Rates and Levies (2018 – £11,000/2019 - £11,330)**

The PC decided to put the precept up for 2018/19 in line with inflation which was running at the time at 3%.

**Box 3 – Total other receipts (2018 – £46,868/2019 – £6,876)**

Other receipts were much lower as there was no large landfill tax grant this year and no large VAT refund due to the spending of such a grant. There was only one receipt of grass cutting allowance from OCC, although this was augmented by a grass cutting costs payment from the Sports Club. There were miscellaneous donations and also a donation of half the cost of the new mower from the Village Hall Management Committee.

**Box 4 – Staff costs (2018 - £3,424/2019 - £3,497)**

Staff costs rose as the SCP pay amount was raised for this year.

**Box 5 – Loan interest/capital repayments**

No explanation required.

**Box 6 – All other payments (2018 – £50,836/2019 - £13,574)**

Other payments were lower this year. Running costs and general administration were at similar levels. More was spent on S137. The main difference was the absence of a landfill tax grant being spent on play equipment this year. Capital expenditure was also down.

**Box 7 – Balances carried forward (2018 - £8,794/2019 - £9,929)**

The PC had intended to try and build up reserves in line with the recommended one year's precept amount. To this end the PC did not spend its full allowance on S137. There were some £700 of miscellaneous donations this year which were not expected. In addition, due to arrangements concerning use of PC assets being established a payment of £250 was received from the Sports Club for grass cutting costs.

**Box 8 – Total value of cash and short-term investments (2018 - £8,794/2019 - £9,929)**

See explanations for box 7

**Box 9 – Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets (2018 - £60,672/2019 - £66,989)**

These have increased by £6,317. This is due to the purchase of a new mower for the playing field and a container to put it in as well as some replacement Christmas lights and a dog bin.

**Box 10 – Total borrowings**

No explanation required.

**Box 11 – Disclosure note**

No explanation required.

**General**

The £22 of the bench grant still remains unspent but the PC still hopes to finalise arrangements for a plaque after consulting villagers and having planted the WWI memorial tree beside the bench.

Mrs Sharron Chalcraft - Clerk and RFO to Finmere Parish Council