

WICKHAM SKEITH PARISH COUNCIL RFO'S REPORT – 2019/20

- The change of bank mandate details for the accounts has taken longer than anticipated, partly due to the coronavirus emergency which has added delays into all steps in the process. Consequently, I do not yet have online access to the accounts to get bank statements on demand. However, as the Standing Orders and Direct Debits are fixed, and the cheque books held by me, it is possible to estimate the outgoings. I anticipate the mandate change process to have completed by the next Council meeting.
- Wickham Skeith Parish Council continues to remain solvent with a General Reserve estimated at £2,090 at year end. Ignoring grant funded items and VAT reclaims for prior years the true difference between usual Receipts and Payments reflects a positive variance of about £250 compared with the 2019/20 budget.
- Extraordinary receipts totalled £4,408, all for the Defibrillator fund, from a combination of grants, fund-raising and donations.
- The ongoing active expense management process continues to be a focus. As a result of ongoing cost increases further movement in the level of Annual Precept was requested for the 2020/21 period. This was approved with a 16% increase from £3,000 to £3,500. The rise is largely due to the cost of employing the new Clerk/RFO.
- The 2018/19 annual external audit was successfully completed and thanks again to Rosie Bassett for fulfilling the internal role. She has kindly agreed to continue for the audit of the year 2019/20.
- I am grateful for the help and support provided by the previous Treasurer, Barry Kemp, particularly for the detailed guide he provided as part of his handover.

**Huw Roberts
RFO – Wickham Skeith Parish Council
May 2020**