Clerks Report Including finance explanation – 8th April 2025

Bin at Western Way:
Awaiting confirmation from FoDDC on whether the bin is theirs to empty.

DVLA:
Request to find ownership of the abandoned car in Western Way car park has been sent and awaiting their response.

Wall at Hill House:
Two Rivers confirmed not their property. Is run by a private freehold company and they are in the process of obtaining quotes.

Response from GCC Highways:
The installation of double yellow lines requires a Traffic Regulation Order. TRO's are by nature a fairly lengthy and costly process to go through due to the amount of consultation required and the time required for legal to process and seal the order. It should be noted that the introduction of parking restrictions may result in the problem being moved to another area. The level of enforcement would be determined by the Civil Enforcement team where restriction is introduced.
For new schemes £15,000 is normally allowed for a TRO scheme; however, this figure can vary either way dependant on the number of objections received for the consultation.
If you consider the vehicle is causing an obstruction to road users, the Police may be able to take action. The Police may be best contacted on their 101 number if this is the case.

Finance:
The EOY spreadsheet is split into 4 sections with the Parish Council, Beauchamp Arms, War Memorial Savings and Beauchamp Arms Security Deposit split out. I have always reported budget figures NET but in order for the EOY statement to balance with the EOY bank reconciliation, VAT on receipts and payments have been added below the totals. The total funds to be carried forward at the end of 24-25 is £39959.90.

Parish Council
We brought forward from 23-24 a balance of £21829.55 and will carry forward into 25-26 £26071.10. This is in part due to the telephone box refurbishment being budgeted for but delayed due to weather to 25-26 but also as a result of the Parish Council working cautiously to build up much needed reserves. The Parish Council received £707.50 as an insurance claim for a vandalised table tennis table which is yet to be spent and £821.25 in bank interest.
A new item added to the budget during the year is Biodiversity. Expenditure of £385.21 was offset by successful fundraising at the Daffodil Weekend which raised £410.86. Councillors need to resolve whether the full £410.86 is carried forward to the new year or just the balance of £25.65? A successful Build Back Better grant for £190 will be received in 25-26 for seeds and equipment. The team have worked very hard to achieve all this.
Areas showing a budget overspend are:

- Defibrillators – new defibrillator and cabinet fitted at the Parish Hall with the older one installed in the phone box at Brooms Green.
- Speedwatch – camera installed in Dymock village with the one installed in Brooms Green provided for free.
- Public Conveniences – much needed refurbishment.
- Biodiversity – no budget set at the beginning of the year.

Beauchamp Arms

Beauchamp Arms funds are included in the Dymock Parish Council current account but to be able to monitor income and payments it has been split out of the budget. The brought forward figure was £5929.48 and we shall carry forward £5307.29 into 25-26 which will form part of the £9000 reserve for 25-26.

Maintenance expenditure in the pub this year has totalled £19035 net with many key Health and Safety and maintenance projects completed including a new fire alarm system, emergency doors and significant work on the roof. There are still significant maintenance issues to be considered over the next couple of years including a replacement oil tank and boiler but we hope that expenditure will not be at the levels experienced this year with plans now in place for continued building maintenance.

War Memorial Savings

The brought forward was £2742.55 and the carry forward is £3268.29. A curry lunch fundraiser was held with the proceeds split three ways between Dymock WI who helped with the food, SSAFA and the War Memorial fund. Thank you to all those who donated and helped. Bank Interest was received of £84.95.

Beauchamp Arms Deposit Account

This now stands at £5313.22 following bank interest over the year of £139.94.

Thank you to all the members and volunteers who have given their time over the last year (often for free) to ensure that the Parish Councils finances are secure to enable ongoing maintenance of our assets and to look to add to them in the future.

Rachel Freestone Clerk and RFO – 3rd April 2025