**Alton Parish Council – Treasurer’s Report**

**Period ended 31st March 2016**

Prepared by Deborah Lester, RFO

After a rather gentle year last year this year things seem to have picked up with some gusto so please bear with me throughout the following detail.

The accounts have a much higher surplus at the end of the year than we started with, rising from a balance of £2,921.67 to £8,736.80.

However £2,787.22 of this sum is ring fenced - £1,237.22 donations for the purchase of a Defibrillator and £1,550 for a grant we received from Groundwork UK. These ring fenced sums aside, leaves the Parish accounts with the sum of £5,949.58, just over a 100% increase on last year and the reasons for this increase are detailed below.

**Income**

Aside from the defibrillator donations and the grant from Groundwork our income has come from the following ;

-The Precept rose from £2400 to £4000 -Income from interest and Dividends amounted to £5.67. The consolidated stock from which we receive the dividend was part of a compulsory purchase by Hmrc for the sum of £214.37. Hence no further dividends will be forthcoming. -A VAT sum was claimed back last year for a sum of £150.72 but only reached the acct during this accounting period. –Mr Pavey paid an annual fee of £230.00 as per the licence for access to 5 Rectory Close.

In future our income will consist of the precept, interest and the licence annual fee only, unless we are able to obtain any further grants or donations.

**Expenditure**

The total expenditure for the year is lower this year, a sum of £1,572.85. The clerk and chairman continue to waive their right to an honorarium. No staff wages are paid. Administration - Admin costs increased this year to £303.35. Last year we had a 50% drop in costs to £51 which was unusual and due to some costs being carried into this financial year. Usually admin costs are levelling at about £120 a year. Payments this year include additional, one off and amalgamated costs including a Parish Council Procedure Bible for £83.42; a claim for mileage from the Chair which had not been placed since May 2014 (£117.45), plus a two year Domain name purchase for the website (£8.39) and a lot of photocopying for the many meetings and newsletters for ongoing matters within the Parish (£87.50). Playground - insurance reduced by £150 from £766.59 to £615.70 this year, legal inspection still £88.80 and grass cutting in Rectory Close £565. Savings - The RAF Memorial grass cutting was not undertaken this year (a cost of £120 last year) and the White Horse was not sprayed (a cost of £150 last year)

VAT paid is minimal and a future application for reimbursement has a minimum requirement of £100. We currently have a total of £19.62 due to be claimed.

**Summary** – In general terms this year our income has increased and our outgoings have decreased. The income includes one off elements like the Vat return along with the compulsory purchase of our consolidated stock. The precept, which was discussed at length last year, was increased to £4000 but was still not in line with other local similarly sized parishes let alone those with the commitments we have like a White Horse, a War Memorial and a playground.

The 100% increase of the end of year surplus, sounds large but in real terms consists of a small capital. Our future expenses will increase as we again become members of WALC (which lapsed for 2 years) and our insurance increases again. Our income will be reduced as we have no further stock to be purchased and will no longer receive dividends from it; VAT won’t be claimed for some years and any future grants are unknown. The Parish’s budget has been maintained tightly in the past but should we have an unexpected expense, I believe that the sum we have could easily be diminished if not stripped. As it is we have a healthy balance and our eyes are up and realistic about future expenses and income.

D. Lester