



# Aylburton Parish Council

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## Financial Report, April 2019

This year I took over as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer in July and since then have made some changes to improve budget monitoring and forecasting as well as record-keeping. This was with the aim of making it easier to see what we were spending, on what, and when. I was also keen to make council finances more transparent by including payment lists in the minutes, for instance.

I have also transferred record-keeping from a hard-copy ledger book to a spreadsheet so that the data can be backed up, shared, searched and analysed. This frees up more council time to do other things.

This year we have been fortunate to receive a Growing Our Communities grant to go towards the planned restoration of the Upper Common kiosk. We also received a donation from Lydney Park Estate for a proposed design of a renewed 'top' to the Cross monument, a project that is ongoing.

We have managed to keep spending under good control this year, which has protected the reserves we keep in order to deal with any parish emergencies or crises and other unforeseen costs. We have spent under the amount received in 2018-19 which means we enter 2019-20 with a healthy reserve.

The budget for 2019-20 is larger than 2018-19 for several reasons which we could not ignore, for instance the change in grasscutting contractor, the possibility of very costly elections next month, and allowing for vital parish works such as tree surgery and traffic calming. The amount by which we increased the precept will not be an ongoing pattern but rather we see this year as a sharp turn to get on the right course, after which we anticipate a return to normal, much smaller, increments in the precept.

In 2019-20 we hope to build on the good starts made in 2018-19 by continuing to improve financial monitoring and reporting, engaging with the community more in order to focus our spending on what matters to you all, and by seeking grants to create results in all areas of the community while minimising the impact on the parish purse.

Meg Humphries  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer