

Bathamton Parish Council

Financial summary for the years ended 31 March 2020 and 2021

Bathamton Parish Council complies with all of the relevant rules regarding publishing data about our income and expenditure on our website. However we feel that the information we are required to provide is not helpful to anyone who wants to understand where the parish council receives funds from and how it spends them. This financial summary is prepared to help parishioners learn more about our income and expenditure.

This was our income and expenditure in the last two years.

	2019/20	2020/21
	£	£
Income	32,332	29,236
Expenditure	22,960	30,676
Surplus / Deficit	9,372	-1,440

In the year to 31 March 2020 our income was greater than our expenditure by £9,372. This was because we received an amount of money called Community Infrastructure Levy which was to be used to pay for the new LED lights in the village. In fact the lights were paid for in the next year – which explains why we spent more than our income in the year to 31 March 2021.

Income	2019/20	2020/21
	£	£
Precept	23,000	23,000
Community Infrastructure Levy	6,168	1,807
Rents	1,451	1,611
Parish Agency Grant	659	672
Other income	1,054	1,147
Playground donation	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total	<u>32,332</u>	<u>29,236</u>

The majority of our income is the precept. This is the sum of all the amounts paid by households in the Parish of Bathampton as part of their council tax bill. For a band D house it is about £30 per year. We have held the precept fixed at £23,000 per year for a very long time. In reality this means the amount each house pays decreases by a small amount each year as more homes are built in the village.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a 15% share of a levy paid to BANES on new properties built in the village. It can only be used to improve the village infrastructure. We have used it to replace our lights with new LED lights. The CIL that we have received beyond the amount paid for the lights will go towards improving our playground.

Rents are mostly received for the allotments but we also receive £10 per year for renting the village hall to the village hall management committee.

The Parish Agency Grant is an amount received because the Parish Council acts as the agent of BANES for clearing surface vegetation on almost 16 kilometers of public rights of way. BANES are responsible for all other maintenance on the footpaths. Other income is mostly VAT which we recover a year in arrears and a small amount of bank interest.

In 2021 we received a generous donation of £1,000 to help with the repair of the zip wire. This will be spent in the financial year ending 31 March 2022.

Expenditure	2019/20	2020/21
	£	£
Salaries	9,912	11,425
New LED lights		6,657
Grants to village organisations	2,618	2,268
Maintenance	653	739
Highways	903	367
Allotments	1,809	887
Playground and playing field	2,734	3,433
Other amenities	267	269
Other admin	2,944	2,336
VAT	<u>1,120</u>	<u>2,295</u>
Total	<u>22,960</u>	<u>30,676</u>

Our largest expenditure is on the salaries of our handyman and our clerk. In 2019/20 we were without a clerk for 1 month and in January 2021 we increased our clerks hours from 10 to 12 per week.

The Parish Council provides and maintains street lights in areas that they would not be provided by BANES eg on the footpath between Devonshire Road and Bathampton Lane, on Dark Lane etc We now maintain 8 lights in total. In 2020/21 we paid £6,657 to convert our lights to LED. This resulted in savings on electricity and on maintenance costs – which are shown on the Highways line.

We also provide grants to village organisations including the Village Show, a donation to help maintain the graveyard and also towards grass cutting on the meadows riverside. We also make small donations to the Maxi Club, the Playgroup and the Cricket Club.

The costs of running the allotments varies from year to year – we always have to pay to cut the grass but in the year to 31 March 2020 we paid almost £1000 to maintain the boundaries etc. In the year to 31 March 2021 we had no additional maintenance costs but we know that we will have substantial costs in 2021/22 to maintain the southern boundary fence.

The playground and playing field are another expensive area to maintain – grass cutting costs and safety audits for the playground cost about £1,200 every year – but other costs vary depending on the level of repairs needed to play equipment. As equipment gets older more and more repairs are needed.

Whilst we try to keep admin costs to a minimum we have to pay for insurance, subscriptions to various organisations such as the Avon Local Councils Association and also the cost of printing the newsletter which is distributed to every household in the parish 4 times a year.

We hope this is useful in helping you to understand how we spend funds to deliver amenities such as the allotments, the playground and playing field as well as keeping our village common areas safely lit and maintained.

If you would like to know more please contact our clerk or come along to meetings. Meetings are normally on the third Thursday of the month in the Village Hall but please check noticeboards and the website for agendas.