

Resources (Staffing and Strategy) Committee Report 2020/21

Finances

This has been a very strange year for all with the pandemic and the uncertainties this has brought for many. There have also been significant changes in the Local Authority with the establishment of the new unitary authority finally in place from April 2021 with Spratton now under West Northamptonshire Council. Due to potential financial pressures and uncertainties, it was agreed to retain the precept with no increase for 2021/22. The precept 2020/21 was increased by 3%.

We continue to contribute along with other Parishes to retaining the bus service, thanks to Cllr John Hunt's (Chair) efforts and persistence liaising with the other villages and securing the partial funding to an affordable sum for the Parishes on the route.

All streetlighting has been replaced with more economical and efficient LED lights. This will provide significant cost saving over the coming years from the much reduced electricity usage and no maintenance.

Over the last 12 months, we have supported Spratton Rec Committee with funding by covering the mowing maintenance costs, we have also supported and continue to support the Youth Club.

Our budget review for the next financial year is healthy with a good reserve in place, allowing for anticipated outgoings and with sufficient contingency in place for SPC responsibilities such as the church wall.

Audit

Internal audit was carried out at the end of April by Northants CALC and all was approved. They stated that they *'were able to access a well ordered set of documents and records'* and they were *'Satisfied that effective policies and procedures together with systems to manage, monitor and control the Council's business are in place.'*

This is all credit again to our clerk, Emma Gibson for her ongoing efforts.

New Councillors

We are currently a compliment of 6 Councillors having welcomed Cllr Claire Joseph and more recently Cllr Jo Bishop over the past year, both bringing experience and knowledge to SPC. We sadly said goodbye to Denise Fry and thank her for her time, efforts and contribution.

We feel we have a strong committed Council providing a range of knowledge, expertise and views. We would like to attract more to compliment the current dynamic to aid in the decision making for the benefit of the village.

Please contact our Clerk if you might be interested in joining the Parish Council.