

FINANCE REPORT

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Income and Expenditure to 30 June 2007 and forecast

	Full year		
	Actual	forecast	Budget
Administration	5,211	14,901	12,314
Highways	1,332	5,710	4,580
Open Spaces	268	3,588	3,514
Recreation Ground	2,225	7,275	8,500
Web Site	446	1,342	930
Total expenditure	9,483	32,817	29,838
Income			
Precept	13,500	27,000	27,000
Bank Interest	47	100	100
Donation		240	240
Total Income	13,547	27,340	27,340
Net Surplus/(deficit)	4,064	(5,477)	(2,498)
General Fund brought forward	11,483	11,483	7,480
General Fund Carried forward	15,547	6,006	4,982

Actual expenditure is higher than budget due to additional payments to the Parish Clerk, and increased energy costs

Susan Ross 13 July 2007

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Code of Conduct

All Councillors are required to sign up to the new Code of Conduct by 1 October 2007. This is not an option: if anyone chooses not to sign, they have to stand down.

You have all received copies of the Code of Conduct guide for members, so I will not reiterate what it contains, but summarise the main points relevant to a Parish Council.

Conduct

- 'do unto others....' The first points relate to equality, fairness and bullying
- you should note the comments on confidentiality, p 10. This could relate to correspondence received by Councillors, but not presented or discussed at a Parish Council Meeting (which are public meetings)
- Advice: This is covered by clause 7 and is not mandatory for Parish Councils. However, we may include a clause which requires us to take the advice from the Clerk. I suggest we discuss this at the meeting, as I am not sure of the implications of choosing to adopt this clause.

However, if you choose to seek advice, you must take it into account when making a decision with regard to registering a personal interest. Advice can be given by the Chief Financial Officer or the Monitoring Officer, a post at Uttlesford District Council.

Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Interests which have to be registered are in chapter 3 of the Code of Conduct.

Unless you have a prejudicial interest you can remain, speak and vote at the meeting, so long as you declare that interest before the matter is discussed, or as soon as you realise there is a personal interest.

The definition of prejudicial interest is on p22. Key point (c) is probably the best rule of thumb

'a member of the public who knows the relevant facts would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest'

Our standing orders do not allow members of the public to speak at meetings. We could change our standing orders to allow this. Such a change will mean that even if a Councillor has a prejudicial interest, he has the same right to speak as a member of the public, but must withdraw from the room when a vote is taken. If we do not make this change, the Councillor will have no opportunity for his views to be heard

Family and Close Associates

In deciding whether you have a personal interest you have to consider family and close associates. This is explained on p20. It is perhaps more wide reaching than you would expect, so you should read this section carefully.

Gifts and hospitality

Any gifts worth more than £25 have to be registered

To be considered at the meeting

- Do we include in our standing orders a requirement to take advice
- Do we change standing orders to allow members of the public to speak

Susan Ross
13.7.07