

## **Town Clerks report**

### **Finance**

External audit has now been successfully completed.

Internal audit is due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

All of last year's transactions have now been coding checked and significant numbers recoded the spreadsheet of last years actual expenditure is being populated now.

The above together with Q1 & Q2 expenditure for this yer will then be used to create this years and next years budgets. The challenge for this year is to match it exactly to the precept already set and find ways of deferring the excess expenditure previously identified into next yer.

Sadly, during the work so far, we have unearthed issues with National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and Value Added Tax as Bitton house has not been opted into tax but we have been charging it therefore it will be agenda at the next finance meeting to complete this.

Next year will be a particularly challenging year due to significant inflationary pressures including pay rise costs, insurance costs as we come out of a 3 yer fixed deal so likely 50-100% increase, our 3-year energy and water deal ends during next year so huge rises may be expected and all other costs are facing at least double-digit inflationary pressures.

### **Staffing**

Both dual Admin finance roles at 25 hours each have been filled by Debbie Shaw and Francasca Womack. Necessary training is now being put in place for our various systems.

The backfilling of the Maintenance and Caretaker posts has been completed and names and start dates will be issued shortly.

### **Market green**

Following my monthly meeting with the local highways officer this was raised for the third time and the same reason for no enforcement action was given "No budget" this time compounded by the statement that the lack of budget had been "decided by elected officials" and that it applied to many areas not just enforcement.

### **Events**

Fireworks, it would appear this event was ordered despite that not being reflected in the relevant full council minutes, however with Shaldon chasing the deposit has been paid and the car park closure booked (and discussions have been opened regarding the placing of stalls for any possible future events)

### **Royal picture**

We have contacted the palace and there is currently no picture of King CHARLES III available, and this is unlikely to be so for many months.

Protocol dictates we should re-site the late Queen's picture.

**Bitton House tenanting**

I am very please to report that the first floor in now full!

The removal of some old partitions will create 1 more room soon which we then remarket.

**Den toilets**

Verbal update to be given at the meeting