

Briefing Note

Financial Report Year End 2018-19

8 May 2019

1.0 Cash and Bank Reconciliation

The year-end bank reconciliation is complete and shows the year beginning with £8,022.74 in cash and ending with £7,441.65. The decrease in cash is due to Cornwall Council's delayed payment of the Agency Agreement: £707.25.

2.0 Reserves and earmarked funds

The standing reserves were not used: contingency reserve (£1.5K), election reserve (£3.5K) or website and village feature reserve (£1K). Payments from the Community Chest grant for the repair of the metal fingerpost, was £350 and was the only payment from reserves.

Transparency Fund.

The transparency fund for fiscal year 2018-19 has £109.40 remaining to purchase a printer/scanner, for the clerk's office, but is not yet needed.

Pittsdown Wind Turbine Fund, now the *Aura Wind Turbine Fund*.

This year the parish council received the second index-linked payment of £1,720.75. This will be paid by Aura Wind (Tregony) Limited to the parish council each year for the next 18 years and will be used for the benefit the parish. The Fund currently stands at 2,220.75.

3.0 Budget Comparison

Total payments for 2018-19 are £7,741.78 (without VAT). Subtracting earmarked funds of £350.00 from total payments, the payments from the 2018-19 budget amount to £7,391.78 compared to the budget of £7,464.

VAT.

Parish councils do not take VAT into consideration for budgeting purposes because parish councils may reclaim VAT.

4.0 Transparency Code and audit

All councils must publish their Annual Return along with the Notice of Period for the Exercise of Public Rights. The Annual Return was rebranded this year as the Annual Governance and Accountability Return or AGAR, which many people still call the Annual Return.

The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities applies to St Ewe, as its annual turnover is well under the £25,000 cut off. In accordance with the Code, the council's financial details have been published on its website since the 2014-15 financial year, and these include a list of all payments. The Code requires a list of payments over £100 and St Ewe publishes all payments.

External Audit.

At St Ewe's level of expenditure, the external audit is a 'limited review' audit. Beginning financial year 2017-18, St Ewe is not required to have an external audit and accordingly the council has again opted out of the limited review external audit for 2018-19 a cost of £200. The council will not submit the Annual Return to the external auditor, but will still publish its unaudited Annual Return (AGAR) on the website, along with the documents required by the Transparency Code that include a list of all payments.

Internal Audit.

In accordance with Audit Regulations, all parish councils have an internal audit for assurance that the council is conducting its affairs lawfully and handling its public money properly. An independent and competent internal auditor is appointed each year by the council. The internal auditor's report forms part of the Annual Return and any issues raised by the internal auditor must be addressed by the council before it completes its Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Return. Internal audit is the public's assurance that its council is proceeding lawfully and effectively.

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Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer

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