

**Kewstoke Parish Council**  
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### **Clerks Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

As per legal requirement the last audited accounts are presented representing 2012/2013

These accounts are presented in what is seen as an easy to read format rather than a balance sheet. See Appendix A

The year started with the finances in good order with balances well above the required level and they have stayed stable with a declared closing balance higher than anticipated

Once again there is nothing that can be done about the past accounts as they are audited history but the last year which now goes to audit will most probably be of more interest.

2013-2014 has been even more frustrating than the previous year, the toilet project has turned out to be a absolute nightmare. The main cause has been the lack of consideration by the Unitary Council with there appears to be an attitude of (its your problem not ours).Had not Cllr Porter intervened on several occasions we would still be in problems. It has not helped by having to use commercial Solicitors who realistically fail to understand local government services.

#### **The UN-Audited Accounts**

These should be viewed with caution as we have received all the grant money but have yet to complete some projects which I suspect will take at least £10,000.00 of the bottom line. These bills will now be met in next years accounts

#### **Toilets**

At going to press the toilets are still not open and the likely date is the end of June 2014 and when you consider we started this process in April 2013 it beggars belief it could take so long. The net result is other projects and issues have been delayed or not attended to.

#### **Fly-Tipping**

This problem has not gone away and recently during the bad weather the Parish had to take drastic action to clear a Rhine at Sand Road to avoid major road flooding. It took the best part of 3months to clear the debris. This is a serious problem for the area of which a New Partnership has been set up to deal with.

It is the Clerks personal opinion that it will be no different.

#### **Newsletter/Web-site**

The Council made a decision to bring the newsletter back in house and have purchased a new printer for the purpose. The intention is to save around £1500 per year as well as give more flexibility to the Parish for printed material.

The Website has been updated and relaunched. It is fair to say we could not spend as much time as possible on it and it will be our intentions to improve later however there are other issues that will take priority.

**Electricity/Street Lighting**

Our street lighting costs have moved towards the £6,000.00 per year level and it was decided to try and save money by turning off at nights. Our problem comes in that we are due a new contract in August for power costs therefore it is now a priority to get on with the project. This is one of the projects which has been delayed because of the toilet fiasco.

**Road issues**

As everyone has seen the roads have got worse in places this year despite little frost weather all though the floods have not helped. It is understood that NSDC need 5million just to stand still which gives the magnitude of the problem.

In fairness to them they are trying different methods to repair the roads rather than just dump in tarmac to come out again in a week and that means the holes are bigger and take longer to repair. Next year this time might be worthy of praise or criticism

**Conclusion**

Its been a difficult year, it is unlikely to get easier this year, it is the price we pay for being a proactive parish. It would not be proactive without a stout good group of Councillors and to that I am grateful