

# Clavering Parish Council

Chairman. Stephanie M. Gill

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## STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE AUDIT COMMISSION LOCAL COUNCIL ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2017

The total of reserves held by Clavering Parish Council is shown in the Annual Return to be £42,433  
This equates to 2.89 times the precept (including local authority grant) for 2016/17.  
(2015/16: £42,468 being 3 times the precept including local authority grant)

We wish that the following be noted:

The General Reserves.

These are shown to be £ 10,899 (2015/16 : £10,467)

There was an expectation for these to be lower as:

- i) approximately £1350 budgeted for Grass Cutting and Tree Maintenance in 2016/17 was not required in that twelve month period due to a short grass growing season and less storm damage in the year.
- ii) The Parish Council committed to an Affordable Housing Survey to be carried out in late 2016 in conjunction with the Rural Community Council of Essex for an approximate total cost of £1000, but which will now take place in the 2017.

The Earmarked Reserves.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the Council had the following approved Earmarked Reserves:

- 1.2 £22,535.11 Capital Projects and/or Revenue Works which would improve Clavering Parish Community
3. £6,288.66 Parish Land Maintenance/ Repairs and Renewals
4. £1,018.74 Allotment Reserve
5. £ 1,191.03 Election Expenses
6. £ 500.00 Legal Expenses

1.2

The Council is continues to actively following a process to agree a programme of improvements which would best utilise its Earmarked Reserves denoted 1. 2. above for the benefit of the Parish.  
We have paid out only £436.00 before VAT in 2016/17. (2015/16 : £7,608.04 before VAT)

Applications for Community Projects continue to be considered by the Council, which acts with diligence in appraising the applications and at all times ensure that all projects approved bring 'value added' to the Community.

The Council has approved approximately £2,500 in funding for community projects, which will be paid over in May/June 2017.

3. The Parish invited tenders in 2016 for the refurbishing of the village benches and seats: this work is still outstanding.

5. There was an uncontested Election in May 2015, hence the drawdown from this reserve was not required.

6. Invoices for Solicitor's Work relating to an ongoing legal dispute have yet to be submitted.

We wish for the following to be noted also regarding large variances in the payments and receipts for 2016/17 when taking 2015/16 as the benchmark.

'Staff Costs': 9% increase as extra costs were incurred in employing a locum clerk and also additional clerk hours required due to a legal dispute.

'Other Payments': 42% decrease as monies paid out from the Council's Earmarked Reserves 1.2. (see above) was not as high as 2015/16.

'Other Receipts': 20% decrease as VAT refunds due in the amount of £550 had not been received by the year end.



Stephanie M. Gill  
Chairman.

9<sup>th</sup> May 2017



Robert E. B. Clayton  
Vice Chairman

9<sup>th</sup> May 2017