Budget Overall:

The year has been met within budget, with adjustments of underspend being reflected in the financial year 2024/25. End of year predictions give a healthy closing balance to carried forward into the new financial year of £155,983.08

the insurance claim for subsidence at the Cemetery Lodge has been concluded, as well as the War Memorial at the Parkeston Cemetery, however, works to install surveillance cameras around the cemetery chapel were not concluded before the year end.

1. Cemetery income:

Burials and memorials gave an income of £3,857.00 over the year.

The income from the Cemetery Lodge continues to be secured by monthly payments being made by standing order direct into the Council’s bank account. The rent remains currently at £678/month.

1. Vat Return: £10,362.34 has already been claimed and the balance of £1,295.75 is in the process of being claimed, making a total claim for 2023/24 £11,658.09.
2. Banking: There has been no change in the current banking systems, currently funds held with the Co-operative Bank plc.
3. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24 timetable
* Internal Audit – Val Evans, is available on selected dates in April and May 2024.
* External Audit – PKF Littlejohn LPP, London as appointed by the Audit Commission:

Audit plan received is to set a submission date for the return of the completed AGAR Part 3, consisting of 3 parts: (1) The annual internal audit report, (2) Annual Governance statement and accounting statements completed and approved by the Parish Council (3) External audit report and associated documentation to be submitted by 1st July 2024.

1. Councillor Allowances:

Payment of Councillors’ allowances remain in line with recommendations set by the Tendring District Council Parish Independent Remuneration Panel:

* Maximum Band 2 Parish Basic Allowance: Member = £516
* Maximum Band 2 Parish Basic Allowance: Chairman = £650

Elected Councillors are only at liberty to claim the allowance, payable year ending 31st March pro-rata to reflect attendance to meetings (10 full council meetings set per annum)

These allowances are in accordance with the Local Government legislation for any member to claim during the current budget year.

1. Contracts:
* Ramsey Street Lighting: the current 5-year contract held with A&J Lighting Solutions for maintenance has been renewed with an annual value circa £3,200.
* Landscape Services: following a tender process the current 5-year contract has been won by Great Oaktree Land Services to run from 1st May 2023 to 30th April 2028. The annual value of the contract is circa £17,950+VAT.

1. Projects:

The projects adopted for 2024/25 have reduced the budget requirement to £7,500, a reduction of £2,930 on the previous year.

1. 2024/25 approved projects:
* Van: Use of van owned by Cllr Priestnall circa £7,905 to support current waste management and salt deliveries with a potential of assisting delivery/collections for residents of large items to increase community work and preparing for use in potential devolution schemes.
* Speed Awareness Signs, in both Ramsey and Parkeston approximately £7,000.
* Replacement/repair of mile markers in Ramsey £1,600
* Money for Parkeston Welfare Park toddler park fence £5000.
* Roadside weed control £1,073.95 with an ongoing cost of £500.00 annually
* Money held for Clayton Road play park, negotiations ongoing but if RPPC do procure it, the park will require lots of work and ongoing costs £5,000.
* Other projects for consideration during the financial year.
1. 2024/25 Objectives: the bank balance to be carried forward into the municipal year 2023/24 is £155,983.08, together with income expected from the cemetery; with the addition of the precept request of £74,196.00 gives an extremely healthy income over the year, however it must be used as set in the budget; ensuring the public purse is protected and our parishioners see value for money in the precept they pay.