



Big enough to matter
Small enough to care

Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

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Outstanding St. Oswald's Pre-School

Great Aycliffe Town Council staff and councillors are celebrating after St Oswald's Pre-School was graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted following an inspection visit on 20th January 2023. The Town Council run pre-school has been assessed as outstanding on all aspects of the inspection including quality of education, behaviour, personal development, and leadership and management. This brilliant achievement is testament to the leadership of Pre-School Manager, Julie, ably supported by Deputy Manager Abbey, and the dedication and commitment of the staff team Tracey, Terri, Emily, Laura, Rhianne and Vikki, and is a fitting reward for all of their hard work over the last few years. The Inspection Report is available to read on the council and pre-school websites. Julie Gale, Pre-School Manager, commented: "The Pre-School has gone from strength to strength and has received a huge transformation over the last several years. I could not be happier that we as a team have received such a great achievement, but it is an achievement that we could not have reached without the support of our families and children whom attend St. Oswald's Pre-School. We are extremely proud of the result we have been awarded and look forward to continuing to provide an enriched and nurturing learning environment for all of our children and to continue in working in partnership with our wonderful families. I would also like to acknowledge the Council's Pre-School Sub-Committee for putting their faith and trust in me to run the pre-school facility." Dan Austin, Town Clerk for the Town Council,



added: "I could not be prouder of Julie and the staff for this achievement as I know they have all worked tirelessly to make St Oswald's such a brilliant pre-school, implementing all sorts of improvements to the facilities, learning activities and care of the children, and working to keep the pre-school open all through the pandemic when many other businesses and organisations were closed. It was particularly touching reading some of the comments from the parents and realising how much they value the pre-school and the care their children receive". The Chairman of the Council's Pre-School Sub-Committee, Councillor Bob Fleming added: "On behalf of the councillors of Great Aycliffe Town Council I would like to thank Julie and the team for their hard work in making St Oswald's one of the best pre-schools in the county. Gaining an outstanding rating from Ofsted is no mean feat and I am very proud that the Town Council can offer such a fantastic facility to the parents and children of the Parish". **Contact: Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager) on 07968 379009.**



Nominate a Garden That Makes You Smile

As the weather improves and residents start to spend more time tending their gardens residents are being asked to nominate local gardens around the parish for special recognition and a possible award.

Applicants will be considered for:-

- Best Garden (must be front garden)
- Best Hanging Basket or planter display
- Best Commercial Property

Gardens can be nominated throughout June with a deadline for applications being Friday 30th June 2023.

Please return this nomination form to Great Aycliffe Town Council, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 6QF or email to: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

I would like to nominate:-

House No. / Name:

Commercial Property:

Street:

Time for Nostalgia Please dig out your old photographs!

Newton Aycliffe reaches a milestone birthday this month - it will be 75 years on 28th June since the first sod was cut to begin construction of the new town in 1948. From its early days of construction, with little or no facilities and infrastructure, Newton Aycliffe has grown and developed into the vibrant town it is today. The areas of bare



earth, empty roads and featureless landscape have matured into tree-lined avenues, flower beds and green spaces, parks and local centres and housing development marking each passing decade, giving each area an individual character.

This is the story of Newton Aycliffe that the Town Council, working with Durham County Council Archive Service, Newton Aycliffe Library, the Newton News and Northern Echo, Town Centre Management and many groups and organisations on the town, aims to record for future generations.

We are gathering photographs and memorabilia which will tell the story of Newton Aycliffe, from that first spadeful of earth to the present day. This will be used to produce display panels which will be exhibited in the Town Centre later this year. A second display will focus on life in Newton Aycliffe over the decades.

We need the help of our residents, schools, groups, businesses and organisations to do this. Your photographs and old handbooks, rent books, commemorative brochures can all be used to tell the Aycliffe story. We also want your memories of growing up and living in Newton Aycliffe - do you remember school days, favourite shops, sports events, royal visits and other commemorations?

There will plenty of opportunities over the coming months to contribute to this project - why not visit our marquee at the Aycliffe 75 - Through the Decades family event in the Town Park on Sunday 2nd July for a flavour of what is to come, you may even be one of the first to leave an entry in one of our Aycliffe 75 memory books.

Also - watch out for details coming soon of a link to our website where you can leave your photographs and memories.

For more information and to contribute to this project, please contact: Amanda Donald, Corporate and Policy Officer at the Town Council Offices, telephone 01325 300700.

Fun in the Park

FUN IN THE PARK IS A SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH TAKES PLACE IN 7 OF OUR PARKS DURING THE SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAYS. THE FUN STARTS AT 11 AM - 3 PM. THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL AND PROVIDES FREE ENTERTAINMENT TO FAMILIES.

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2023 - TOWN PARK
FRIDAY 28 JULY 2023 - ST OSWALD'S PARK
FRIDAY 4 AUGUST 2023 - OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX
WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2023 - MOORE LANE PARK
FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2023 - HORNDAL PARK
WED 16TH AUGUST 2023 - AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PARK
FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST 2023 - SIMPASTURE PARK

For more info go to www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Please note height and age restrictions apply to inflatables, fairground rides, climbing wall and bungee trampolines

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Aycliffe 75, Through the Decades

Newton Aycliffe is celebrating
a very special birthday!
Sunday 2nd July - 1 pm to 4 pm
Town Park - Newton Aycliffe

FREE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM
JEN-AMI, MR TWISTER,
AYCLIFFE DANCE ACADEMY
AND LIZZIE LOVEJOY

Food, small fairground rides,
crazy golf and face sparke
(fees apply to these items).
Bubbleologist, magician
and balloon modelling.
Community stands and stalls.
Something for everyone!

AYCLIFFE
1948-2023

Foreword by the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson

At the Annual Meeting of Great Aycliffe Town Council on 17th May, the outgoing Mayor Councillor Ken Robson presented cheques to his chosen charities; Together 21 and Wishing Well. After a fantastic and very busy year with well over 100 engagements, he was

pleased to present a cheque to each charity for £1,988. Councillor Robson said, “It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as Mayor of Great Aycliffe. I have been diligent and treated the role with the respect that it deserves. My

Mayoress and I have been successful in promoting our lovely town to Civic Heads from Northumberland to Yorkshire with many visiting to see for themselves. Good wishes to the Succeeding Mayor Carl Robinson and his Mayoress Carol”.

Great Aycliffe Town Council Provides:

Environment

The Town Council takes great pride in the green environment of the town and provides many services in support of this, including: Allotments

The Town Council provides over 220 allotment sites located at:

- o Clarence Chare
- o Finchale Road
- o St. Oswald’s
- o Aycliffe Village and
- o Byerley Park

In addition to the allotment gardens, the Town Council also offers facilities for keeping pigeons and poultry as well as beekeeping plots at specific allotments sites.

Cemeteries

The Town Council provides, maintains and undertakes burial services at its two cemeteries at West Cemetery and Stephenson Way. We also provide a burial service for St. Andrews Church in Aycliffe Village.

Grounds Maintenance

The Town Council undertakes grounds maintenance e.g. the provision of flower beds, grass cutting and tree planting and maintenance, on all Council owned land and facilities.

Environment and Green Open Space

The Town Council runs the Environment Centre at Moore Lane which is available to hire for environmental meetings and events. We carry out environmental management of a number of nature and conservation areas including the Great Aycliffe Way and other green open space across the Parish including the Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, South Agnew Plantation, Cobbler’s Hall Plantation, Simpasture Railway Walk, Aycliffe Nature Park, School Aycliffe Wetlands and Byerley Park Nature Area.

The Town Council is also the custodian of Aycliffe Village Greens. We deliver a comprehensive programme of environmental activities for schools, community groups, environment events, and deliver an Environment Week, which involves visiting the primary schools in the town to give an interactive presentation on litter and then offering the opportunity for the children to take part in a litter pick in their local community.

We also assist a number of community groups such as Great Aycliffe Tidy Team, local scouts and guides groups. The Town Council has also declared a Climate Emergency and is working towards reducing its carbon footprint and becoming carbon neutral.

Street Equipment

The Town Council provides public seating, bus shelters, litter, and dog bins on Town Council owned land.

Recreation

Leisure facilities and community events have formed a major part of the Council’s service provision over the years, including:

Parks and Play Areas

The Town Council owns and operates eight very different parks, all with their own character. These are found around the town at:

- o Moore Lane Park
- o St. Oswald’s Park
- o Town Park
- o Horndale Park
- o Simpasture Park
- o West Park
- o Byerley Park
- o Woodham Park

We provide modern and well-maintained play equipment at all of these parks, as well as specific play areas at the following sites:-

- o Oakleaf Sports Complex
- o School Aycliffe
- o Aycliffe Village
- o Scott Place
- o Cobbler’s Hall

The Town Council also provides five multi-use games areas at Moore Lane, Simpasture, Horndale, Woodham and Cobbler’s Hall, as well as a skate park in the Town Park, a scoot track at Horndale Park and a BMX track at Woodham Park.

Park Patrol Service

The Park Patrol Service provides an out of hours service to monitor and safeguard the Council’s parks, other facilities and their users.

OakLeaf Sports Complex

The OakLeaf Sports Complex provides an indoor bowls green, a multi-use sports hall, four squash courts, function room and bar

and catering facilities.

The Sports Complex is also home to an indoor bowls club, squash club, running club and archery club, and provides a number of coaching and activity sessions for both adults and children, including an activity programme for children during school holidays.

In recent years, a programme of events has been developed at the sports complex including school sports events, steam punk/ sci-fi events, MMA events, dog shows and craft fairs.

This year saw a number of new initiatives including a Christmas pantomime, Warm Hub, Open Mic nights, craft market, junior football coaching and crazy golf.

OakLeaf Golf Complex

The Council also manages and operates the OakLeaf Golf Complex, comprising an eighteen-hole golf course, 18-bay floodlit driving range, golf shop and changing rooms.

Football Pitches

The Town Council provides eight football pitches, including junior football and six a side pitches at three sites:

- o Sports Complex;
- o Simpasture; and
- o Moore Lane

Community Events

The Town Council runs a series of annual community events including:-

- o Senior Citizens’ Excursions
- o Fireworks Display
- o Fun in the Parks
- o Santa Tours and Santa Letters
- o Christmas Lighting Display

The Senior Citizens’ Trips for 2022 were under subscribed. The main reason for this was linked to coming out of the Pandemic. For 2023 the excursions are once again proving very popular, with less than 80 seats remaining over the 20 coaches.

The Fun in the Parks for 2022 were extremely busy, with numbers of attendees exceeding expectations at all parks.

For 2023 we have another full programme of Fun in the Parks scheduled for the summer holidays.

The 2022 Big Brass Bash in the Town Park was very well attended and received by the public. A date of 14th July has been secured for 2023. The Big Brass Bash is brought to the parish of Great Aycliffe in partnership with Durham County Council.

In 2022 a Party in the Park was held at the Oak Leaf playing fields site with the lighting of the beacon to mark the late Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee. More recently we held a special event in the park to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Coming up this year, the Council has provided a significant grant and the use of Council land to an outside events company for the inaugural Ayclive Music Festival at the end of July. This will be held on the Sports Complex playing field.

The Council also provides finance and support to events run by local organisations including the following events:-

- o Remembrance Day Parade
- o Girls Can Football
- o Cyclocross Event
- o Tri-Golf Schools Event
- o Bus preservation society
- o Vintage Emergency vehicle and car display
- o Food and Craft Fair

Other Services

Pre-School Learning Centres

The Town Council provides a Pre-School Learning Centre located in St. Oswald’s Park which is currently registered for 40 places for 3-year-olds.

The Council also provides a setting for two-year olds called ‘Tots in the Park’, offering 12 places, morning and afternoon, 5 days per week. Both pre-schools have recently been classified as Outstanding by Ofsted.

Grants and Donations Fund

The Town Council operates a grants and donations fund offering financial support to community organisations and local charities.

Civic Events

The Town Council hold a number of civic events including Mayor’s at Home and the Annual Civic Ball

Newsletter

The Council produces four newsletters each year to keep the public advised of current activities, services, and events. Future newsletters will be published electronically.

Message from the New Mayor

My name is Councillor Carl Robinson and I am the newly appointed Mayor of the Town Council.

I was honoured to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on the 17th May to serve as the Mayor of Great Aycliffe parish for the coming year and I am looking forward to promoting our great town especially with the special Aycliffe 75th commemorations this year. My chosen charity is ‘All Disabilities Matter’ and I will be raising funds for them throughout the year. If you would like me to attend any special events or occasions in the parish, please get in touch at the Council Offices on 01325 300700 or info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk. This newsletter provides an overview of the many services that the Town Council has planned to provide to the community of Great Aycliffe during this coming 2023/24 year.



Dates & Times of 2023/2024 Meetings

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| 31 May 2023 | Environment | 7.15pm |
| 31 May 2023 | Recreation | *7.15pm |
| 7 June 2023 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 14 June 2023 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 12 July 2023 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 12 July 2023 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 19 July 2023 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 26 July 2023 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 6 Sept. 2023 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 6 Sept. 2023 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 13 Sept. 2023 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 20 Sept. 2023 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 18 Oct. 2023 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 18 Oct. 2023 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 25 Oct. 2023 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 1 Nov. 2023 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 29 Nov. 2023 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 29 Nov. 2023 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 6 Dec. 2023 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 13 Dec. 2023 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 17 Jan. 2024 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 17 Jan. 2024 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 24 Jan. 2024 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 31 Jan. 2024 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 28 Feb. 2024 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 28 Feb. 2024 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 06 Mar. 2024 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 13 Mar. 2024 | Full Council | 7.15pm |
| 10 Apr. 2024 | Recreation | 7.15pm |
| 10 Apr. 2024 | Environment | *7.15pm |
| 17 Apr. 2024 | Policy & Resources | 7.15pm |
| 24 Apr. 2024 | Full Council | 7.15pm |

** The Environment Committee will usually commence immediately after the Recreation Committee Meeting – please contact us to confirm.*
WEDNESDAY, 15th MAY 2024
COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – 7.15pm.
WEDNESDAY, 22nd MAY 2024
PARISH MEETING – 7.15pm.
The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend. The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings.

Annual Report on the Council’s Finances 2022/23

1. Introduction

Welcome to this annual report on the Council's finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest. This report sets out the Council's spending plans for this year; 2023/24, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's actual income, expenditure, and financial performance over the last year; 2022/23.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to be raised from council tax to fund all of the services it provides for the year ahead. The Budget covers the financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March. The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget each year. The Revenue Budget funds the day to day running costs of the Council's services such as salaries and goods and services, and the net cost, after deducting any income receivable from fees and charges and grants, is met from the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax. The Capital Budget funds major one-off investment in the Council's fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is funded from the Council's Balances and Reserves and any external grants that may be available.

3. 2023/24 Revenue Budget

The 2023/24 Revenue Budget was prepared on the basis of 'business as usual' for the new financial year, following another uncertain and challenging year as a result of high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. It was also developed on the principle of continuing to provide all Council services, facilities and events and maintaining current standards of service, whilst recognising the longer-term budget pressures faced by the Council, and the need to maintain contingency resources within the Revenue Budget for as long as possible and address the forecast depletion in the level of the Council's balances and reserves.

Additional budget provision needed to be made for a number of issues including projected increases in insurance premiums, continuing increases in relation to electricity and gas costs, increases in staffing cost including a local government pay award and an increase in the employers pension contributions as well as ongoing unavoidable inflationary increases. A number of budget lines also saw reductions to assist in offsetting increases being experienced.

The council tax base growth, as a result of increased employment opportunities, reduced claims for council tax support and new housing development, helped to offset increased in budget provision, in addition to this the Council Tax Support Grant settlement for 2023/24 saw a year on year increase in funding. Additional budgeted income at the Sports Complex, Golf Complex, Driving Range and Pre-School were also provided for which helped to offset the additional budget provision which was required.

The overall effect of these changes resulted in the 2023/24 Revenue Budget being approved on the basis of an increase of 7.50% in the Town Council Tax.

In overall terms, the Council's 2023/24 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept has increased by £143,870 or 8.2%, from £1,746,869 in 2022/23 to £1,890,739 in 2023/24.

In overall terms, the 2023/24 Revenue Budget is considered to be a robust and prudently set budget, that will ensure all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe during the year, continue to provide a firm foundation and some surplus resources to meet the increase in running costs that lie further ahead, and allow the Council to continue to replenish its balances and reserves moving forward.

The table on the following page provides a summary of the Council's 2023/24 spending plans:-

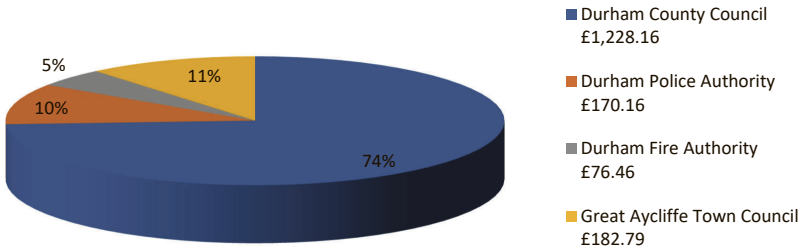
2023/24 Revenue Budget Summary

| Service Area | 2023/24 Budget £ |
|---|--------------------|
| Members and Civic Expenses | 69,500 |
| Finance Section | 101,550 |
| Administration Section | 88,900 |
| Corporate Section | 273,650 |
| St Oswald's Pre Schools | 303,350 |
| Works | 291,300 |
| Depot | 38,400 |
| Capital Financing Charges | 30,050 |
| Community Events | 220,850 |
| Sports Complex | 875,150 |
| Sports Pitches | 23,300 |
| Golf Course | 231,800 |
| Driving Range and Golf Shop | 155,900 |
| Parks and Play Areas | 214,450 |
| Environment and Open Spaces | 102,100 |
| Street Equipment | 11,300 |
| Cemeteries and Church Works | 111,700 |
| Allotments | 31,100 |
| Contingency Sum | 15,000 |
| Total Cost of Running Town Council Services | 3,189,350 |
| Capital Programme Investment in Council Assets | 116,500 |
| Contribution to Capital Reserve | 50,000 |
| Total Planned Revenue and Capital Spending | 3,478,100 |
| Less Income | |
| Council Tax Support Grant | (204,911) |
| Pre-School Funding and Fees | (238,250) |
| Sports Complex Fees and Charges | (462,400) |
| Golf Course Fees and Charges | (158,650) |
| Driving Range and Golf Shop Fees and Charges | (151,750) |
| Cemeteries and Church Works Fees and Charges | (67,050) |
| Sports Pitches | (7,350) |
| Allotments Fees and Charges | (8,150) |
| Feed in Tariff Income from Solar Panels | (12,250) |
| Other Income | (10,850) |
| Investment Income | (27,000) |
| Total Income | (1,348,611) |
| Less Use of Council Balances - Capital Programme | (116,500) |
| Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept | 1,890,739 |

4. 2023/24 Council Tax

The 2023/24 Band D Town Council Tax is £274.19 per year. This is an increase of £19.13 a year on the 2022/23 Council Tax. However, it is important to note that around 60% of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax. The 2023/24 Band A Council Tax is £182.79 per year which equates to around £15 per month. A breakdown of the 2023/24 Council Tax is shown below demonstrating that 11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:

Band A Council Tax 2023/24



5. 2023/24 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue to make capital investment in order to deliver the Council's Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets.

The Capital Programme Budget for 2023/27 currently stands at £116,500.

The budget includes provision for various building works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, information technology improvements, footpath repairs and play area safety surfacing replacement. The budget has been prepared on the basis of essential investment only linked to the need to closely control capital spending to help maintain and protect the Council's balances and reserves for as long as possible. There were a large number of delayed capital projects in 2022/23, totalling £335,500, which have been carried forward to 2023/24.

The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves which are set aside for this purpose.

6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.663 million at the 31st March 2023. This is better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget last year.

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the medium term and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding.

During 2023/24 it is anticipated that Balances and Reserves will fall to £1.095 million as a result of commitments including carry forward requirements from 2022/23, funding of the 2023/24 capital programme, and contribution to reserves from the 2023/24 Revenue Budget.

7. 2021/22 and 2022/232 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2021/22 and 2022/23 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

| 2021/22 £ | Service Area | 2022/23 £ |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| 64,232 | Members and Civic Expenses | 67,117 |
| 81,039 | Finance Section | 90,999 |
| 66,628 | Administration Section | 73,622 |
| 300,484 | Corporate Section | 262,463 |
| 242,829 | St Oswald's Pre Schools | 261,634 |
| 165,662 | Works and Depot | 226,444 |
| 31,321 | Depot | 33,055 |
| 26,159 | Capital Financing Charges | 28,727 |
| 116,371 | Community Events | 196,618 |
| 599,918 | Sports Complex | 805,361 |
| 18,525 | Sports Pitches | 20,806 |
| 212,338 | Golf Course | 220,452 |
| 136,782 | Driving Range and Golf Shop | 159,702 |
| 141,153 | Parks | 144,310 |
| 61,319 | Play Areas | 62,470 |
| 93,524 | Environment and Open Spaces | 98,431 |
| 8,733 | Street Equipment | 8,090 |
| 92,406 | Cemeteries | 95,916 |
| 12,500 | Church Works | 12,850 |
| 30,032 | Allotments | 29,994 |
| 4,377 | Contingency Sum | - |
| 2,506,332 | Total Cost of Council Services | 2,899,061 |
| Less Income | | |
| (184,992) | Council Tax Support Grant | (191,681) |
| (229,433) | Pre School Funding and Fees | (237,593) |
| (306,312) | Sports Complex Fees and Charges | (503,622) |
| (133,461) | Golf Course Fees and Charges | (122,090) |
| (131,818) | Driving Range Fees and Charges | (142,714) |
| (39,198) | Coronavirus Job Retention | - |
| (49,320) | Cemeteries Fees | (65,557) |
| (7,664) | Allotments Rents | (8,189) |
| - | Sports Pitches | (6,886) |
| (13,477) | Other Income | (8,155) |
| (424) | Investment Income | (23,482) |
| (12,325) | Feed in Tariff Income (solar panels) | (13,205) |
| (1,108,424) | Total Income | (1,323,174) |
| (24,201) | Less Use of Reserves | (10,893) |
| 1,373,707 | Actual Net Cost of Council Services | 1,564,994 |
| 323,793 | Contribution Balances / Savings | 181,875 |
| 1,697,500 | Council Precept / Council Tax | 1,746,869 |

The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources and, as can be seen above, this prudent management of the Council's spending has resulted in savings being achieved in both 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Spending in 2022/23 was £181,875 or 10% under the level of Precept. The main reasons for this saving were the budgeted contribution to capital reserves, no use of the contingency sum, a significant increase in income at the Sports Complex, better than expected interest income as a result of the increase in interest rates, an increase in pre-school funding and fees, an increase in golf shop sales and lower than usual spending across all services to help offset increases in utility, fuel, and insurance costs and a higher than budgeted staff pay award following the national agreement for Local Government employees.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget are set aside in the Council's Earmarked Reserves to provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

8. 2021/22 and 2022/23 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2021/22 and 2022/23, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

| 2021/22 £ | Investment Area | 2022/23 £ |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 57,094 | Council Building Works and Improvements | 55,560 |
| 84,718 | Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment | 53,166 |
| 7,753 | Information Technology and Office Equipment | 3,820 |
| 54,451 | Parks and Play Area Improvements | 10,571 |
| 41,782 | Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Footpaths) | 17,630 |
| 17,301 | Street Equipment (bus shelters, seats, bins, fencing) | 27,542 |
| 263,099 | Total Capital Investment | 168,289 |
| Funded by:- | | |
| 206,151 | Use of Council Balances | 139,960 |
| 56,948 | External Funding | 28,329 |
| 263,099 | Funding of Capital Investment | 168,289 |

9. Annual Return and External Audit Report

The Council completes an Annual Return each year comprising its Accounting Statements, Annual Governance Statement and Internal Auditors Report.

The Annual Return is reviewed by the Council's external auditors and an opinion is provided on whether the Council has prepared the accounts and governance statement in accordance with statutory requirements and proper practices for town and parish councils.

The Council is pleased to report that the external auditors did not raise any issues of concern in respect of the 2021/22 Annual Return.

The 2021/22 Audited Annual Return to the Council is available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council's website, along with the 2022/23 Unaudited Annual Return.

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL WARD



Peter Bergg - Ind



Dorothy Bowman - Ind



Lindsey Aston - Lib Dem



Ian Gray - Lab



John Woodward - Lib Dem



Anita Sparrow - Lib Dem

SHAFTO/ST. MARY'S



Tony Armstrong - Ind



Robert Fleming - Ind



Brian Haigh - Ind



Wendy Hillary - Ind

AYCLIFFE CENTRAL



Jim Atkinson - Lab



Jed Hilary - Lab



Joanne Jones - Lib Dem

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Carl Robinson - Ind

Find Great Aycliffe Town Council on the following platforms



WEST WARD



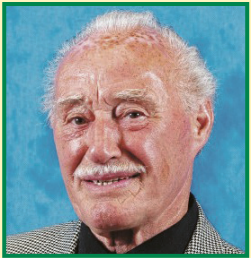
Eddy Adam - Lab



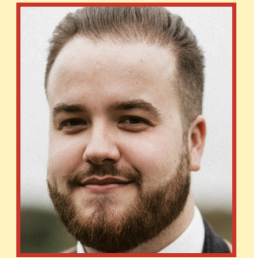
Martin Ashcroft - Ind



Arun Chandran - Ind



George Gray - Ind



Simon Hocking - Lab



Ken Robson - Ind

NEVILLE



Phillip Hawkins - Ind



Neville Jones - Lib Dem



2022/23 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2022/23 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

| Surname | Forenames | Title | Total Payment | Member's Allowance | Subsistence | Mileage Claim |
|-----------|-----------|-------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Adam | Edward | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Armstrong | Tony | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Ashcroft | Martin | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Aston | Lindsey | Mrs | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Atkinson | James | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Bergg | Peter | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Bowman | Dorothy | Mrs | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Chandran | Arun | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Clark | John | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Collinson | Neil | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Fleming | Robert | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Gray | George | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Gray | Ian | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Haigh | Brian | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Haigh | Sandra | Mrs | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Hawkins | Phillip | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Hill | Andrew | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Hillary | Jed | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Hillary | Wendy | Mrs | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Hopper | Catherine | Mrs | £886.64 | £886.64 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Jones | Joanne | Mrs | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Jones | Neville | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Kirby | Sandra | Mrs | £721.25 | £721.25 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Miller | Andrea | Mrs | £1,219.13 | £1,219.13 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Moore | John | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Robinson | Carl | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Robson | Kenneth | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Shelton | Maureen | Mrs | £369.43 | £369.43 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Stead | Michael | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Woodward | John | Mr | £1,329.96 | £1,329.96 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Woodward | Anne | Mrs | £1,229.68 | £1,229.68 | £0.00 | £0.00 |

WOODHAM WARD



Anne Woodward - Lib Dem



Neil Collinson - Ind



Sandra Haigh - Ind



John Moore - Ind



Sandra Kirby - Lib Dem



Michael Stead - Lib Dem

SIMPASTURE WARD



John Clark - Lab



Andrew Hill - Ind