

Financial Report 2019 - 2020

Clerk – Catherine Jarvis

Gilsland Playground: The weekly inspection continues by SM, for which the council are very grateful. The Haltwhistle Cemetery staff, through quarterly inspections, undertook cleaning, refurbishment and safety improvements paid for by the Council.

S137 Donations totalled £850 with the limit for 2019-2020 being £2931.32. Donations were made to Gilsland Village Hall; Haltwhistle Golf Club; Age UK; Sport Tynedale and Great North Air Ambulance. We have also promised an annual donation of £250 to Gilsland Church for its cemetery upkeep starting in this financial year 2020-2021.

The Jigsaw Nursery very kindly returned unused funds for a donation made to them last year. The returned funds totalled £618.88.

GR, a local arborist/tree surgeon, undertook a tree inspection at a cost of £425. His report indicated that several trees needed further attention at a cost of £450. This pushed the grass cutting/maintenance budget over budget due to the emergency nature of the work. It is now envisaged this work will not have to be done for several years.

RA, a local carpenter, also updated the noticeboard at Gilsland Village Hall at a cost of £280. The noticeboard was badly in need of some care and attention.

The amount for salary was slightly over budget due to two clerks salaries within the same financial year. We are very grateful to the very experienced, acting clerk, Susan Saunders, for all her hard work in putting into place appropriate council systems. Susan left in November 2019, back to her other parish council roles, after covering my role for 18 months whilst I was on study leave.

The website continues to be updated for Gilsland, as a whole, by Nigel Jarvis, who receives a payment of £300 to do this. I, as clerk, update the Thirlwall Parish Council side as regards council meetings and news.

A new colour, laser printer was purchased earlier this year to help with Parish Council business and to help print the Gilsland village magazine as/when necessary.

The balance at 31st March 2020 is £3414.20 and the parish council raised the precept value slightly to £6300 per year from £6000. The precept has not been raised for many years until this year – adjusting for inflation.