



Hawridge & Cholesbury Commons Preservation Society

Accounts for the year to 31 October 2022

Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year to 31 October 2022 have been approved by the Committee and reviewed by the Hon. Examiner, Mr Mike Fletcher, whom I would like to thank for his diligent work. A copy of the signed accounts can be found on the 'Commons' website. They will be proposed for adoption by the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

There was a small decrease in members to 150 (2020-21:155) who contributed, together with Members' donations, a sum of £1,820 (2019-20 £1,935). I do encourage all Members to 'sign up' their neighbours, especially those moving to the Hilltop villages who may know nothing of our activities. It really is amazing value! We really do need as many members as possible.

We received £279 in other donations (2019-20 £600), the main difference being the generous receipt last year of £350 from the 'Thomas the Tank Fund'. £125 was raised by Janet Hopkinson (£150 in 2019-20) with her 'Don't Scare the Horses' event. Thank you Janet.

I do want to thank Lindsay Griffin again for her amazing efforts in not only maintaining the sales of calendars and cards at such a high level but also generating a further £465 from the donation of the sale proceeds of her delicious cakes. She has asked that the cake proceeds be used to meet the costs of the 'Owl' film shown at last year's AGM (included in the AGM expenses) and at the School since.

The continuing contributions by several very talented photographers in the villages helps to maintain the sales of cards by refreshing the stock. These sources of income now exceed the subscriptions and donations from Members and are a vital part of our annual income. I have no doubt that if more Members were to assist with these or similar projects we could increase our revenue.



As you will have seen, substantial work is being undertaken on the Commons to deal with the significant damage being caused by ash die-back. In the normal course Christine Stott meets arboreal costs. However, the work that will be required over the next few years is exceptional and your Committee has decided that it should contribute to this. A provision of £3,000 has been made in the Accounts and the Committee will consider further contributions as the extent of the work becomes clearer.

If the two exceptional items of the tractor sale in 2020/21 and the tree work this year are disregarded, these Accounts show an improvement. Without these, the Accounts would show a surplus this year of £1,016 against a deficit last year of £1,340. However, this year was a 'light' one for Commons maintenance, with no pond work and other maintenance beyond mowing, bracken and path cutting. This will not be the case every year.

Otherwise, our expenditure was similar to recent years.

I think all will agree that the Commons continue to look better year by year. Our thanks go to Christine and Janet for their planning of the work, to James Jolliffe for his execution of it and the strimmer operators who help to keep the paths clear in the summer.

At the end of the year the reserves of the Society were £15,322 (2020-21 £17,306). As I commented last year, the surplus is substantial compared to our annual income and costs. It means there are funds available for new projects and also to cover any significant expenditure such as the problem of ash die-back. Given the reserves and the anticipated level of annual costs I did not propose a change the present subscription this year, which has remained the same for more than a decade.

I or other members of the Committee will be happy to answer any questions on the accounts or other matters.

Philip Prettejohn

31 January 2023