Neston Town Council	Meeting (No)	FULL COUNCIL (5)	
	Date	24th October 2023	
	Document		Ref No
	Full Council Financial Report 2022/23		FC5/58

Summary of the Council's Financial Position as of 31.3.23

The overall financial position of Neston Town Council for 2022/23 was an overspend of £3,627. However, this was before the Council used £22,188 from the general reserve to fund the 2022/23 budget and to keep the precept down, which was an important attribute for members.

Neston Town Council also transferred £41,403 from Ear-Marked Reserves (EMRs) in order to keep the overspend down. This transferral was used to fund the following projects: to part-fund redundancy costs (£13,700), the new Parkgate marsh pool (£11,250), the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (£8,100), part-funding of the consultancy costs (£5,000), to part-fund salaries (£2,000), finger-post signs (£743), donation (£400), and part-funding a laptop (£210), totalling We did transfer to EMR's a total of £21,375 so the net movement of EMR's was a minus of £20,028, please see below the changes in reserves between 2021/22 & 2022/23.

Year	General Reserve	Ear Marked	Reserves
21/22	£181,291	£91,929	£273,220
22/23	£155,475	£71,901	£227,376
Change	-£25,816	-£20,028	-£45,844

Neston Town Council is committed to a pension strain cost, amounting to a total of £55,768.32, an amount which is still outstanding. Following consultation with Cheshire Pensions, the Council has been permitted to pay this amount in annual instalments over the next 3 years which will cost £18,589.44 per annum. An invoice for 23/24 is expected imminently.

Starting in the current financial year 2023/24, the Council has no funding for this expenditure in place at present so this could potentially end up further reducing the General Reserve if Neston Town Council decides not to fund this separately. This would take the reserve levels below the required amounts as per JPEG, another report will be done shortly to Full Council reviewing the required general reserves level.

At Year End, the Council used over £13,000 to part-fund redundancy costs from EMR's not to reduce the general reserve further. The Council needs a plan to build the reserves back up to previous levels.

Looking ahead to 2023/24, the Council has a fully funded budget except for the above amount.

Trevor Godfrey
Finance Manager & RFO