

HIGHAM FERRERS
TOWN COUNCIL
THE TOWN HALL
MARKET SQUARE
HIGHAM FERRERS
01933 312075



Hecham Chronicle

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Annual Report to Electors

This is the Annual Report for Higham Ferrers Town Council for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2009.

During the year the Council has been actively involved in the management of the areas in its control, especially the areas of public open space.

We have employed a replacement Park Ranger with increased hours to reflect the workload at this time. In Saffron Road Recreation Ground we have opened a Multi Use Games Area and Tennis Courts for use by the Junior School in term time and by the public at other times.

We have also agreed that Sure Start can use the area during the School Holidays together with other open space.

The Council is currently working with English Heritage to provide a new pathway through the inner moat area at

Castle Fields so as to make the area more accessible.

The Children's Play Area at Saffron Road Recreation Ground is being expanded. One replacement item of equipment has been installed which will be extended. Further items of play equipment with the toddler to 8 year old age group in mind will follow in 2009.

The Cemetery Chapel has been re-roofed, with further internal works to provide better use of the building.

The Council has also turfed over areas of old pathway in the Old Cemetery which has created more space and made it easier to maintain. Refurbished seats are planned to be installed during 2009 into this area. The Council has also constructed a new pedestrian gate and ramp into the new cemetery so as to give a better, closer access.

Working with our County Council representative the Council is currently installing bollards on the pavement surrounding the Market Square to prohibit parking and enhance pedestrian safety.

A major initiative by the Council during the year has led to the provision of an Alcohol Designated Area Order covering the whole of the Town Centre and the two parks which will aid the Police in limiting drink related nuisance problems.

The Council is continuing to work towards Quality Status which it hopes to achieve during 2009.

The Council continues to run a very successful Farmers Market on the last Saturday of each month which attracts customers from a wide area.

**Cllr. Anna Sauntson
Mayor**

info@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

Year Ending		Year Ending
31 March 2008		31 March 2009
	CURRENT ASSETS	
3,287.50	A6 Suspense Account	3,287.50
496,986.30	Cash in Hand	491,438.77
7,169.92	Fund Investments	0.00
2,862.63	Debtors	423.25
2,351.92	Grants and Contributions due	2,765.76
6,316.62	VAT Recoverable	6,218.71
<u>1,883.56</u>	Bank Interest due	<u>4,921.20</u>
<u>520,858.45</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>509,055.19</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
1,050.00	Provisions	875.00
19,870.01	Accruals	9,118.83
0.00	Rent Deposit	4,269.93
<u>20,920.01</u>		<u>14,263.76</u>
<u>499,938.44</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>494,791.43</u>
	Represented by	
50,000.00	Capital Receipt	50,000.00
585.00	Christmas Light Fund	0.00
2,850.42	Robe and Insignia Reserve Fund	2,850.42
246,917.98	Maintenance Reserve Fund	246,917.98
18,000.00	Cemetery Fund	21,000.00
5,000.00	Gratuity Fund	6,000.00
53,034.09	Suspense Item	53,034.09
120,532.29	General Revenue Fund	123,550.95
3,018.66	Surplus/Deficit for year	<u>-8562.01</u>
<u>499,938.44</u>		<u>494,791.43</u>

Explanatory Notes

A6 Suspense Account— Costs incurred during the A6 Bypass Public Inquiry which it is hoped will be recouped.

Fund Investments—a change in accounting method made this year requires that any long term investments shall be treated as capital expenditure. The item has been transferred to the Asset Register.

Grant Contributions Due—A reimbursement of Car park costs from the District Council.

Provisions—Expected cost of the External Audit of these accounts.

Rent Deposit— Sum held in relation to the letting of 5 College Street.

Capital Receipt— Balance of the receipt from the lease for the new Doctor's Surgery.

Christmas Lights Fund— Remaining balance used to provide additional lights for Christmas 2008.

Robes/Insignia Fund— A provision made to allow for the replacement of the Mayoral Robes etc., which are showing signs of wear and will need replacing.

Maintenance Reserve Fund— This contains the contributions received from developers in relation to the adoption of Open Space and Play Areas. The interest from its' investment partly meets the cost of maintaining them.

Cemetery Fund—This is being built up annually in anticipation of the need for new burial facilities given the limited unused space in the Cemetery.

Gratuity Fund— This is being contributed to annually to meet contractual gratuity payments to some officers in lieu of pension.

Suspense Item— A sum received from the Highway Agency in relation to the A6 Bypass which is under query as no exchange land has yet been provided.

David R Hill
Town Treasurer and Responsible Financial Officer
02 June 2009

Income and Expenditure Account 2008/9

Year Ended 31 March 2008	INCOME	Year Ended 31 March 2009	Explanatory Notes
169,000.00	Precept	185,000.00	Precept – the amount collected within the Council Tax on behalf of the Town Council.
2,010.89	Miscellaneous Income	2,026.03	Miscellaneous Income – mainly comprised of an insurance claim for damage to the Sports Pavilion and incentive for on-line PAYE return.
2,575.86	Bank Interest Received	9,381.67	Parks Income – includes £10,262 investment income from Maintenance Fund and £2,067 verge-cutting grant from County Council.
10,259.32	Cemetery Fee Income	7,291.43	Car Parks Income – includes insurance claim for damage to boundary wall and District Council contribution.
19,290.29	Parks Income	14,230.90	Property Income – relates to the former surgery premises which were vacant for a period but now re-let to the Little Steps Childrens' Nursery.
3,669.50	Farmers Market Income	3,547.50	Grants Received - £1,000 Business Promotion Grant from the District Council, remainder from County Councillor Empowerment Scheme.
3,699.05	Car Park Income	3,570.76	Administration – includes £6,169 insurance premium for public liability, property and other cover.
7,002.19	Property Income	8,042.44	Section 137 Expenses – expenditure under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) which is not authorised under any other power and is commensurate with the benefit to the Town. Includes items such as Christmas lighting and Poppy Wreath.
20,888.23	Grants Received	5,534.33	Major Item Expenses – projects in the year were Cemetery Chapel Roof Replacement, Tree Work in Castle Fields, Web Site set up, Town Hall Fire Alarm installation, Noticeboard, Seats and Signs for Town Centre, Play Equipment, Turfing over paths in Old Cemetery and the acquisition of the freehold of the Riverside Park.
53,034.09	Capital Receipt	0.00	Fund Transfers - £3K to Cemetery Fund, £1K to Gratuity Fund and £585 from Christmas Lights Fund.
291,429.42	TOTAL INCOME	238,625.06	Long Term Investments – see note on this item on the Balance Sheet.
	EXPENDITURE		Public Facilities – includes £17K CCTV costs, seats repairs and dog bins.
11,653.81	Administration	12,027.12	Property Expenses – relate to former College Street Surgery and includes rates and service costs whilst premises were vacant, letting fees and redecoration.
39,881.80	Salaries	41,180.02	
6,435.21	Town Hall Expenses	7,222.49	
2,757.60	Section 137 expenses	3,414.65	
65,819.63	Major Item Expenses	47,575.69	
55,034.09	Fund Transfers	3,415.00	
0.00	Long Term Investments	7,085.95	
	Running Costs		
19,704.86	Cemetery Maintenance	17,333.49	
61,205.05	Parks and Open Spaces	71,706.82	
182.00	Farmers Market	446.91	
3,699.05	Car Park expenses	3,570.76	
2,005.30	Street Lighting	1,488.56	
15,377.85	Public Facilities	18,496.80	
3,654.51	Property Expenses	10,033.41	
1,000.00	Town Promotion	2,189.40	
		125,266.15	
288,410.76	GENERAL FUND	247,187.07	
120,532.29	General Revenue Fund B/F	123,550.95	
291,429.42	Add Income	238,625.06	
411,961.71	Sub Total	362,176.01	
-288,410.76	Less Expenditure	-247,187.07	
123,550.95	General Revenue Fund C/F	114,988.94	

Council Officers

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