



Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

Responsible Financial Officers Annual Report for Year Ending 31st March 2021

We started the new Financial year in lockdown unaware that various restrictions would still be place by the end of the following March. Despite this the Parish Council has continued to maintain the Churchyard around St. George's in Shimpling, the Playing Field, Community Orchard, Church Green, and other items (like benches) throughout the Parish. We contributed to St. Mary's for the churchyard and the youth groups at the church and chapel, looking to the future when larger gathering will be permitted.

At the start of the financial year, the Band D rate was set at £55.50, a 1.83% increase on the previous year, which raised a Precept of £11,711. After a review, the budget was reduced slightly from 2020 to £14,000 with funds to cover the difference carried forward from the previous year.

The Playing Field continued to offer a valuable green space for people to exercise during lockdown, and when Government Guidelines permitted the play equipment and BMX track were opened for use. Additional signage was also required. During the year the BMX track area was further improved by the erection of a safety fence to separate the riders from the main part of the field.

The additional expenses due to COVID were offset by reductions in other costs as meetings became virtual. Therefore, we have finished the year £1,300 under budget.