

Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

On behalf of Streatley Allotments Society I would like to thank Louise Schilizzi for examining the year end accounts, and Streatley Parish Council for their continued support.

The accounts were submitted to Louise Schilizzi for her inspection, and she has confirmed they are a true and complete picture of the finances of the Society.

Plot Fees We were mindful of the pandemic's financial impact on our allotment community last year. The Committee recognises the new impact of rising energy costs, and plot holders can contact the Committee in confidence if it is helpful for the coming 2022/2023 financial year. However, plot holders need also to be aware that our Constitution states that Streatley Allotments Society can only waive fees for two consecutive years.

Refundable Deposits Cancelled No deposits of tenants who left during the year were retained by the Society.

Plant Sale Donations Thank you to all who provided plants or gave a donation in return for some plants. We hope this small and effective exchange will continue, and particularly for our participation in the GAP Festival's Garden Open Day on Friday 10 June 2022.

Other Donations We were pleased to receive additional voluntary donations from plot holders.

Site Improvement Thanks are due to our committee who have shared site management duties during this past year and to volunteer plot holders who have given additional support at working parties and on other occasions. The difference in costs from the previous year are explained by the annual hedge trimming postponed from 2020/2021 of which only half took place due to the lateness of the work, plus replacing the edging on the top path. We continue to no longer externally sub-contract the maintenance of common areas of the site.

Social No social events that would occur a cost took place due to the pandemic.

Cash Reserve I am pleased to report a good reserve with a small increase on the previous year. Members will note the above re. hedge trimming. Members may also wish to note that we try to maintain reserves at a sufficient level to ensure the society can pay for at least 2 year's annual rent and insurance, which is what we mean by an acceptable and sustainable level.

Banking TSB online banking continues to work well, and we are still able to pay in monies to local post offices. However, with McColl's demise the possible closure of Goring's post office counter is acknowledged. Pangbourne or Wallingford will be the closest alternative. Reading remains the closest TSB Branch. I would like to reassure members that we maintain good governance as two signatories are still required to authorise online payments. Cheques can still be received and issued if this is a preferred method of payment/reimbursement by plot holders.

Conclusion Overall our finances remain in reasonable health. However, the site is now some 10 years old, and significant outlay is inevitably likely in the coming financial years. All plot holders should therefore note that some concerted fundraising efforts may be required to maintain the site.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Treasurer for the last 3 years, and I extend my thanks to you all for your promptness in all matters financial and for your general good humour and support. My warmest wishes to the incoming Treasurer to whom I know you will offer the same support.

Imogen Smart, SAS Treasurer
20.04.2022