

Auditor's Report for year ending March 31 1995

Points raised by the District Auditor at discussion held on August 16 1995.

1. Balances

Balances seem high bearing in mind that MPC precepted this year for £50000. I explained that approx. £125000 was held in reserve for maintenance etc. (commuted sums). Although we are looking at traffic calming / pedestrian crossing a limited amount of money only (about £10000 - "free resource" - less money already earmarked towards Community Care etc) could be used towards these schemes in any one financial year.

2. PWLB Loan

Should we look at redeeming the Community Centre loan? We have already looked at this possibility once.

3. Bus Shelter Lay by

Should not the County Council have provided the new lay by? The County Council in discussion with Cambus and RLEW agreed that a lay by should be installed at the Landbeach Road site but would put the scheme on their list of works to be done. Depending on priorities we could have waited some time. The CC agreed that MPC could do the work.

4. Insurance

Concerns that the equipment stored at MCC is properly insured and that there was an inventory for all of the equipment. MCC deal with this satisfactorily. (ILD note).

5. Grass Cutting

Are we happy with the level of service? (yes) Do we give other firms opportunity to tender? (yes) Is Paul covered by insurance so that MPC does not become liable in the event of an incident? (yes).

6. Allotments

There was a small deficit on the allotment account. In view of the impending rent rise from the County Council we should perhaps review the allotment holders' rents. (Council tax payers may if we wish subsidise this - we are not obliged to break even).

7. PAYE

The auditor is obliged to point out that all employees should be registered under PAYE. If it were discovered that tax had not been paid (I am not suggesting that this is the case -Jim) then the Council as a corporate body could be liable to pay the shortfall (Councillors would NOT be liable personally). I shall make an appointment to see the inland revenue to discuss the implications.

8. Youth Worker

Council has no powers to pay for a youth worker. This must come out of Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 - "free resource" (to be taken into account when thinking of pedestrian crossing etc.).

9. Fidelity Guarantee

The Fidelity Guarantee protects the Council in the event of the clerk absconding with Council funds. Our present level of insurance with Cornhill is set at £25000. The criterion for setting the level of the fidelity Guarantee is as follows: a figure comparable to the size of the balance plus the precept - in our case about £175000! It is unlikely however that Cornhill would agree to such a figure.

10. Tax

Under the Income and Corporate Taxes Act 1970 Section 353 Council would not be liable to pay any tax on the £35000 received for the land for the doctors' surgery.

11. Cemetery

Fees were due to be reviewed.

Other points for the clerk's reference

1. Minutes

It is essential that all figures for quotations accepted by Council are minuted in full.

2. Legal Documents

Auditor will want to see all deeds etc at next audit.

3. Clerk's Salary

A dummy invoice should be issued each month.