

# Annual Report

## 2021-2022

### INCOME

An increase in income, more than expected when the budget was agreed. The difference is a result of:

1. VAT was forecast at £6,000, the amount claimed £14,951, much higher due to higher spend on BWH emergency repairs
2. A slightly higher income from the 2 family pantos and CIL income a little higher than forecast

### EXPENDITURE

COVID restrictions still impacted 2021, with some projects not able to go ahead. However, remedial works were carried out at the Council Offices and the Memorial Garden is near completion

1. Staff costs. Spend was lower than the original budget. New Clerk and no appointment for project manager at BWH accounts for the difference
2. General Administration costs were slightly higher
3. Grants, projects and FA costs were just above the original forecast
4. Council Office costs were higher by £2,500. This is the increased costs in fuel, along with the works completed – Insulation and new windows to make the building more eco friendly
5. Spend on Bedwas Workmen's Hall was £4,500 below the original forecast. Due to emergency repairs on the roof and ongoing work towards the lottery grant, some remedials were put on hold
6. CIL. Money received and some from reserves spent on the emergency repairs to the roof at BWH

### SUMMARY

2021 started with a £98,000 carry forward. Audited accounts at the end of March 2022 shows a carry forward figure of £96,000. This is based on our "best guess" with regards rising fuel prices and general increases in other costs

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The current banking system, with online access is working well. Where possible, the Clerk will encourage BACS payments rather than cheques
2. With rising prices across the board, the Clerk will continue to scrutinise contracts in place and see if cost savings can be made. Any new proposals will be presented at the monthly Full Council Meeting for discussion and approval

## **MOVING FORWARD INTO 2023**

1. The Litter Hub, provided by Keep Wales Tidy can now be advertised and opened for the use of the public
2. The Memorial Plaques and Trees will be planted in each of the three villages and Upper and Lower GYR
3. The team of volunteers continue the excellent work at the Council Offices with the work on the Memorial Garden as well at the general maintaining and tidying of the surrounding area

### **4. TRAINING PLAN**

This is a new duty for councils under the 2020/21 Local Government and Democracy (Wales) Act. All councils will have to write a training plan, the first of which must be ready and published by 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022. There are areas which all councils should ensure they have sufficient skills and understanding

- 4.1 Basic Induction for Councillors
- 4.2 The Code of Conduct for members of Local Authorities in Wales
- 4.3 Financial Management and Governance

Ann Birkinshaw  
Clerk/RFO

5<sup>th</sup> May 2022