## Observations on Finance for the ATM 2023

The financial year 2022-23 once more had its challenges. However, we moved towards something nearer pre-Covid normality, reflected in an increase in bookings for the Town Hall, Sports Pavilion and sports facilities once more. There was additional expenditure related to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Hythe hosting the Cinque Ports Speakership.

A review of our income shows total receipts of $£ 450,730$ of which $£ 369,677$ was raised through the precept. Hythe Town Council had budgeted for $£ 98,367$ from income but received just under this, at $£ 81,053$.

The draft figures for the year-end will be audited by the Internal Auditor in May and Hythe Town Council hope to have another financial year which will be signed off as complete and unqualified by the External Auditor.

Going forwards, council unanimously agreed at the December full council meeting an overall recommended spend of $£ 514,278$ and a precept demand of $£ 377,246$ for 2023-24.

The anticipated provisional figure calculated against Band D properties will be $£ 60.28$, against the 2022-23 figure of £59.94. This will be adjusted based on the revised tax base but the provisional estimate was for an increase of $£ 0.34$ per annum, equating to $£ 0.03$ p per month.

I have had the pleasure to chair the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the past four years and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work and commitment, as well as the staff, particularly Julie as our clerk/responsible finance officer, and Roland, projects and finance officer.

The clarity of the reports and figures that have been brought to the committee have further improved, which is a great aid to the F\&GP members.

Thanks to the efforts of councillors and staff, I am delighted to report that once more the Council's accounts are in a positive and stable position.

