

Merseyside Civic Society

Finance Report for 2022

1. The MCS Council's accounts are presented on an annual (calendar) year receipts and payments basis. Because of the date of the Society's Annual Meeting in November, the Accounts usually have a rather distant aspect to them by the time they are presented.
2. 2021 and 2022 were both exceptional years in the Society's recent financial history with considerable changes to Income and Expenditure in contrast to the long-term trend. To take account of these, the Finance report for 2022 has been re-formulated into sections covering (a) the Society as a whole, with (b) the second section covering the individual funds. One reason for making this change was the award of project finance from Historic England to undertake a pilot study involving local residents in enriching knowledge about local listed buildings (in here termed the 'Listing Project').
3. In terms of 2022 Income, the Listing Project contributed most c.£7,300), with the General Fund coming close behind (c.£6,300), and the donations being received by the Fountain Fund coming third (c.£4,000). The Listing Project and the Fountain Fund are both designated as 'Restricted,' in that income must be expended for those funds' purposes, while our General Fund may be expended on any of our objectives. The income received by the General Fund was increased beyond its more usual sources by c.£3,000 received as a Management Fee for the Listing Project. MCS is grateful to our Hon. Secretary, Pam Wilsher, for securing the award, its administration, and the generous donation of the Management Fee.
4. In terms of 2022 Expenditure, the running order is the same, with the Listing Project fully expending the full amount awarded; the General Fund meeting the expenses of the Society's administration, activities, artwork and E-newsletters and included off-set expenses relating to the Prescott walking tour, meal and visit to the Shakespeare Playhouse; and the Fountain Project paying for the structural survey undertaken by Clancy Engineering, which provides a baseline for on-going study.
5. Taking Income and Expenditure together, the outcome for 2022 was a surplus of c.£1,231. Added to the balance of c.£13, 570 brought forward from 2021, the year-end total of c.£23,451 on 31 December 2022, included c.£14,830 in the General Reserve and c.£8,743 in the Fountain Fund. The total of the Society's funds of c.£23,451 was held in the Virgin Money Deposit account c.£18,157, the Virgin Money 100-day account £5,000, and our current account at Barclays of c.£294.
6. The MCS Council's general reserves policy is reviewed annually by the MCS Council, following report from the Resources, Governance & Membership Group. The current aim is to use continuing donations plus charges for activities to cover routine costs on an average year-by-year basis, supported by accumulated general reserve funds for additional approved current and shorter-term development projects, while seeking to increase donations without discouraging the free membership policy.
7. The amounts of income and expenditure items reported in the accounts only show financial sums, but the Society benefits from -- and indeed is kept going by -- the uncharged time, effort, and skills of individual volunteer members and by beneficial charging by some suppliers, notably by design consultants, Nonconform.
8. The Society is grateful once more to our Hon. Auditor, Dr J. R. S. Wrightson, for his advice as Independent Examiner of our accounts for 2021 and for his continuing advice.

M.P Dowling (MCS Hon. Treasurer)

D.W. Massey (Assistant Treasurer)

