Clerk’s response to questions, verbal, raised by a member of the public during Public Comments at Council Meeting on 17th February 2020 – emailed 18th February 2020.

Charity Loans
The loan to the Pool was entered under Misc. Income Pool to avoid creating a separate coding. We knew it would be repaid within weeks. 22 May loan made, 25 June repaid and in the Nominal Ledger it is shown as Repayment of Loan for Leader works. It's under the Pool Leader Grant works - possibly not the right accounting heading but Hallgarths will show it properly.
The loan to the Pavilion side, made in two stages of £5,000 then £2,000 was also entered as Misc. Income but for the Pavilion side of the accounts.

Grants and Donations - different headings in the Charity accounts
Both the Pool side and the play area in particular of HRC often receive donations from individuals rather than grants from say RDC, HTC etc. The accounts needed to show Leader separately for the detailed records that had to be produced for the grants so we ended up with 3 codings for the pool side of the accounts - Grants, Donations and Leader.

Streetlights
Maintenance will include an electrical survey and a structural survey next year.
I did delay some of the work in Helmsley and particularly Carlton in the hope of a grant from the Dark Skies/potash grant scheme from the Park but this money has been very slow in coming forward and they are only just starting looking at how they will award grants. I spoke to the new officer and Helmsley's streetlights are not the sort of project that would attract funding, Carlton might have done but it's years off so theirs were converted to LED to complete the work.

Budget and Grants
There is some detail on the website - https://www.helmsleytowncouncil.co.uk/uploads/2020-2021-budget-final-website-version.pdf
There was an application for £5,000 for the Pool which was not in the budget this year. The Pool does not intend to apply again for a grant.
HSC will not be applying for the rest of the MUGA sum set aside for this financial year - £1,000 out of £10,000 awarded.
Grants - there's a list of grants awarded to date on the website. We are in the process of updating the page, I think it is just the recent one to HSC that needs to be added.
I attach the Powerpoint presentation that was a meeting document for the budget meeting.

Accounts - offset accounting. Not sure this is illegal for councils as I said - I've been told by another clerk that it is but then I know one council that uses it and their auditor does not object. Maybe not just good practice.

Council reclaiming VAT for HRC
This has been on the agenda and minutes. The council as Sole Trustee may claim VAT on some things that are not charged for, like play area repairs, inspections, tree inspections etc. Unfortunately the Charity may not claim the VAT directly. It has to be done via the Council's VAT Local Authority VAT reclaim number (the council is not registered for VAT) then the council repays the Charity.

In future it would really helpful to have advance notice of questions which require some detail in the answers please then I can do the research and probably provide a written report rather than try and remember the detail in a meeting. Another option will be to answer at the next meeting which is what used to be done.