**Clerk Report and Recommendation to Aldbury Parish Council (APC).**

**Council Meeting 6th November 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM 22/116 4**

Council to approve clerk’s recommendation to move funds from a NS&I investment account into a new investment account.

Background:

Council discussed moving funds from the investment account held with NS&I to a new account to obtain a better interest rate and therefore receive more income. Clerk was asked to investigate interests’ rates provided by other banks.

**NS&I Investment Account current balance of £34,722.99**

The bank does not offer online banking for this specific investment account and all enquiries must be done via post, which is time-consuming.

Interest rate as at December 2022 – 0.60% gross/AER

Statements are received by post once a year in January with update on interest received in December, withdrawal of funds is done via form. If a new saving account is set up, then funds will be transferred directly otherwise a cheque will be sent.

Summary of findings on alternative accounts:

1. **Unity Trust Saver Account** – APC already has a Current Account with this bank.

Online banking is proving very convenient, and all bank mandates can be automatically added for the saving account.

Statements received via email and online portal, easy to use and accessible.

There are no fees and money can be accessed instantly.

Interest is credited quarterly in March, June, September and December.

Interest rates as of 4th August 2023 – 2.75%

Detailed information attached separately.

1. **CCLA – Churches, Charities and Local Authorities THE PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND.**

The clerk obtained recommendations through the Council finance group for clerks and RFO’s and clerks at Ware Town Council and Tring Town Council have highly recommended this bank.

Annual management fee of 0.08%

Funds can be withdrawn on demand

Interest is credited at the end of each month

Interest rates as at 30th October 2023 - 5.2563%

Detailed information attached separately.

Recommendation:

Council to agree to move funds from NS&I account to a new saving/investment account. Council to decide which bank to choose.

Sources of information:

Clerk spoke with customer service at NS&I, Unity Trust bank and CCLA

<https://www.ccla.co.uk/funds/public-sector-deposit-fund>

<https://www.unity.co.uk/business-banking/savings-account-2/>