

Ashwell Parish Council			
ACCOUNTS 2023-24			SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS WITH GENERAL NOTES
2022-23		2023-24	
	RECEIPTS		Background Notes
80,926.81	Precept including CTRS (Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	94,923.83	Set by the Parish Council but collected by the District Council (NHC) with other Council taxes and forwarded in two halves, April and September. Total precept received for 2023-24 £96,350 included CTRS grant of £1,426.17. Precept request increased for 2023-24 to maintain level of services and adequate reserve contingency in the light of increased costs. (See minute meeting 11 Oct 2022/8)
1,423.19		1,426.17	
82,350.00		96,350.00	
350.00	Other grants and donations	87.50	2022-23: Grant for Queen's Green Canopy Tree and Hedge Planting from HCC. 2023-24: CTRS grant -see above. Herts Police & Crime Commissioner £87.50 grant towards school poster speed awareness project.
0.00	s106	0.00	Charged to developers of new properties to offset the additional costs to the community; collected and held by NHC on behalf of the parish.
	(including transfers to other groups)		
1,580.13	Reimbursed items,	1.25	2022-23: £1580.13 Refund for overpayment, Castle Water. £200 Santander compensation for ba
200.00	credits, insurance claims,etc		2023-24: £1.25 re lease for Carters Pond
101.18	Bank interest	862.45	Santander reserve account.
5,785.05	Cemetery	9,395.05	Parish Council is the Burial Authority for the Cemetery in Station Road; fees are set annually. Increase in fees in 2023-24, similar number of burials but greater number of Rights reservations and memorials. The Chapel of Rest is leased to a local funeral director Neville of Luton. £825pa. (lease renewed in 2019 for 20 years) Part of area for future cemetery use currently let to Bluegates Farms (lease from 1938 £0.05pa)
160.00	Small Gains -Field and Allotments	276.00	Sports field and allotments at land off Station Road; community assets for which the Parish Council is responsible. The sports area is currently let to the junior football club (Ashwell Academics) who manage this area. No increases in rents for this year (see 'Prices' sheet in budget documents). Rents received may fall over two financial years.
2,250.00	Recreation Ground and	1,532.66	The Parish Council manages the Recreation Ground and the facilities including the pavilion on

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	Pavilion		behalf of the parish (agreement that it also manages the portion of land owned by the charity, Allotment for Exercise and Recreation of which it is the sole trustee).
			Cricket Club, Football Club (adults) and Ashwell Academicals Football Club (juniors) pay rent for use. No increases in rents for this year (see 'Prices' sheet in budget documents); financial status of clubs post-Covid acknowledged. Rents received may fall over two financial years.
			Published annually in March; includes reports from the Parish Council plus reports from village organisations and articles of local interest. Supported by local advertising to cover production costs; income may fall in two financial years. Copies delivered free to all householders and businesses; small number sold through a retail outlet.
1,255.00	Yearbook 2023 edition	3,505.00	
1,831.00	Yearbook 2024 edition	2,275.00	
5,356.49	VAT reclaim	7,180.47	Under section 33 (see VAT Notice 749 April 2002), actual sums of VAT payments are reclaimed at the end of each financial year.
101,218.85	Totals	121,465.38	
	PAYMENTS		Background Notes
15,085.03	General admin and misc	19,926.01	Includes office costs, insurance, elections, memberships (HAPTC/NALC, SLCC, CDAforHerts, CPRE, GLEAM and Woodland Trust), room hire, website, audit fee, legal fees, training courses, newsletters etc. Includes Yearbook production costs (published in March). In 2023-24: additional book-keeping support from outside supplier £4261.25, new laptop £600, HR consultancy advice £198. Increases in insurance £431, room hire £180, playground repairs £1165, Pavilion electricity £488.
44,897.07	Office employees costs	36,755.66	Clerk and Deputy plus all on costs. In 2023-24: Clerk's planned retirement postponed; re-employed under temporary contract with no pension. No Deputy Clerk for part of the year. Costs of Environmental Cleansing Officer and Grounds Officer are included under premises budget categories. Clerk and Deputy are on NALC contracts and paid in accordance with those scales. Ashwell is a NALC LC2 level council. Ashwell PC is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
1,114.69	Small Gains -Sports field and allotments	1,199.00	Sports field and allotments at land off Station Road. Sports field grounds maintenance by Accies. Small Gains Lane is a private carriageway; all adjacent landowners share responsibility

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			for maintenance. Water is provided. In 2022-23: water £421.37, £680 on rabbit issues, £13.32 new lock. In 2023-24: water £399, £800 for track repairs.
1,305.00	St Mary's Churchyard grounds maintenance and the Parish Clock	2,736.80	The Churchyard is 'closed' for burials so the Parish Council is responsible for grounds maintenance. In 2023-24: £1,045 additional tree works. Small increase in grass cutting costs. The Parish Clock is maintained by the Parish Council on behalf of the parish. In 2022-23: additional repairs. £200 for service and minor works in both years.
609.94		200.00	
6,724.93	Cemetery	4,903.79	The Parish Council is the Burial Authority for the cemetery in Station Road. Costs include Environmental Cleansing Operative, grass cutting contractor and additional maintenance, eg tree work, memorial safety work. In 2022-23: refund from water supplier following disputed charges £1580. In 2023-24: grounds maintenance cost slightly lower.
7,950.08	Streets support	6,007.54	Environmental Cleansing Operative's costs plus installation and maintenance of street furniture - litter bins, dog waste bins, seats, notice boards etc. In 2022-23: included costs of dog waste bin disposal for two years (£1199 for previous year).
2,509.90	The Springs	4,329.10	Amenity area, including a SSSI, owned and managed by the Parish Council as a community asset in conjunction with other bodies including the Countryside Management Service, Natural England, Environment Agency. Costs include Environmental Cleansing Operative, grass cutting contractor and additional maintenance, eg tree work. Costs kept low due to high level of volunteer input with funds in Allocated Reserve if more paid input needed. In 2023-24: Tree works £640, hedge trimming £760, new fencing £765. Small increases in other maintenance costs.
11,180.92	Recreation Ground, Pavilions and Playground	11,370.24	Amenity area (includes some land owned by the charity 'Allotment for Exercise and Recreation' that is managed by Parish Council). Costs include Environmental Cleansing Operative, grass cutting contractor, utility bills and general maintenance. Also RoSPA and quarterly maintenance inspection costs. General maintenance costs increasing due to age of building.
2,613.60	Public toilets	3,006.71	
490.00	War Memorial	331.40	Community assets maintained by the Parish Council. Includes War Memorial, Merchant Taylors' Green, the Lock Up, Carters Pond (latter jointly with volunteer input). Grounds maintenance costs have decreased from last year.
778.00	Other parish assets	524.20	

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2,407.23	s137 expenditure/grants	2,582.05	Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables spend of up to the product of £8.41 (figure increased annually by RPI) per head of electorate for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. In 2023-24: £1,000 to St Mary's Church for hosting post office outreach at Parish Room, £376 defibrillator expenses , £85 Community Land Trust membership, £165 Community Energy Association membership, £200 Royston & District Community transport grant, £10 Recreation Ground charity grant, £715 printing costs of leaflets (retailers support).
	(community support)		
7,180.47	VAT	4,150.26	Non-business. Parish Council not VAT registered.
15,483.38	Expenditure from allocated reserves (some grant funded)	0.00	In 2022-2023: Springs £5,634 tree works, fencing, litter bins; new planting at Rec £758; support for CLT £2,650; cemetery box hedge treatment £120; St Mary's churchyard tree survey, scan and works £2,405; pavilion upgrade project architectural services £1,700; highways support 20s plenty posters £341
120,330.24	Totals	98,022.76	