

## Ashwell Parish Council

## ANNUAL RETURN - Section 2 : Statement of Accounts

## Explanation of variances

This is prepared based on information in "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils : a Practitioner's Guide"

Important note: These figures have been prepared on a RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS basis.

Box No.	Description	Last Year £	31/03/2025 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Notes
1	Balances brought fwd	49516.00	72958.24				BALANCE B/F AGREES
2	Annual precept	94924.00	110656.76	15732.76	17%	Yes	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 2024-25 £110,656.76 . Precept request increased for 2024-25 to maintain level of services and adequate reserve contingency in the light of increased costs.
3	Total other receipts	26542.00	25301.12	-1240.88	5%	No	
4	Staff Costs	43695.00	56501.20	12806.20	29%	Yes	During May - September there were 2 clerks for handover purposes while the new clerk learnt the role. Then the old clerk retired in October.
5	Loan interest/capital repayments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	No	
6	Total other payments	54328.00	58815.57	4487.57	8%	No	

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Box No.	Description	Last Year £	31/03/2025 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Notes
7	Balances carried forward	72958.24	93599.35	20641.11	28%	Yes	£5,000 for the yearbook costs. Still awaiting the Audit costs for 23-24 was estimated to be around £400. Contribution towards pavilion upgrade of £2,000 has been added to the reserves. £3,718 was added to the Springs reserves. £1037 was added to yearbook support. £2,000 was added to the legal expenses reserves. £1,200 was added to reserves for the Parish clock, £1,400 was added to the election expenses. £1000 to small gains reserves, £1,000 to recreational grounds, £1,100 added Herts Highway reserves.
8	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	72958.24	93599.35	20641.11	28%	Yes	£5,000 for the yearbook costs. Still awaiting the Audit costs for 23-24 was estimated to be around £400. Contribution towards pavilion upgrade of £2,000 has been added to the reserves. £3,718 was added to the Springs reserves. £1037 was added to yearbook support. £2,000 was added to the legal expenses reserves. £1,200 was added to reserves for the Parish clock, £1,400 was added to the election expenses. £1000 to small gains reserves, £1,000 to recreational grounds, £1,100 added Herts Highway reserves.
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments	115035.00	115003.60	-31.40	0%	No	
10	Total Borrowings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	No	

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This report is intended as a guide to the variances you may need to explain. The specific requirements vary between external auditors so please check the requirements shown on the pro forma provided to your council

Please note a breakdown of approved reserves will also be required if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept value (Box 2)