

Ashwell Parish Council

ACCOUNTS 2025-26

SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS WITH GENERAL NOTES

2024-25		2025-26	
	RECEIPTS		Background Notes
110,565.76 1,397.24	Precept including CTRS (Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	112,613.39 1,569.71	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 2025-26 £114,183.10 included CTRS grant of £1,569.71. Precept request increased for 2026-27 to maintain level of services and adequate reserve contingency in the light of increased costs.
111,963.00		114,183.10	
241.57 1,250.00 80.00 180.00 340.00	Other grants and donations	411.00 21,313.00 1,600.00	£411 received from council & school towards 20's Penty speeding signs. £21,313 received from Great South East Net Zero Hub. £1,600 received Herts County Council towards tree works on station road.
0.00	s106 (including transfers to other groups)	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.
	Reimbursed items, credits, insurance claims,etc	0.00	
1,038.05	Bank interest	1,233.41	Santander reserve account.
5,785.00	Cemetery	8,135.00	Parish Council is the Burial Authority for the Cemetery in Station Road; fees are set annually. Increase in fees in 2025-26, 11 burials, 5 Rights reservations and 4 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)
299.00	Small Gains -Field and Allotments	255.00	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 Academicals) 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.
5,000.00	Recreation Ground and Pavilion	5,198.00	The Parish Council manages the Recreation Ground and the facilities including the pavilion on 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), Ashwell 1st Scouts (juniors) and Ashwell Academicals Football Club (juniors) pay rent for use. There was an increase 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. There was also Eat Feast 3 times in the year which was agreed at £100 per hire.
5,540.00 4,150.26	Yearbook income VAT reclaim	6,603.00 5,163.96	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. £1,063 of this year's income belonged to the previous year. Under section 33 (see VAT Notice 749 April 2002), actual sums of VAT payments are reclaimed at the end of each financial year.
135,866.88	Totals	164,095.47	
	PAYMENTS		Background Notes
18,095.27	General admin and Misc	26,620.12	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 2025-26: The costs were made up as follows bookkeeping costs were £5,237.50, website hosting & domain renewals were £667, stationery costs £542.91, £850
56,501.20	Office employees costs	48,865.85	Clerk and Deputy plus all on costs. In 2025-26: This was the first full year of the new clerk & deputy clerk pay which was lower than previous clerk pay. Costs of Environmental Cleansing Officer and Grounds Officer, we lost the grounds officer part way through the year so the role was taken on by the ECO.

			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.
524.05	Small Gains -Sports field and allotments	521.03	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 for maintenance. Water is provided. In 2025-26: water £436.03, £85 repairs to water tank
2,432.49 1,210.00	St Mary's Churchyard grounds maintenance and the Parish Clock	5,204.98 185.00	The Churchyard is 'closed' for burials so the Parish Council is responsible for grounds maintenance. In 2025-2: Grounds maintenance cost were £3,850, with £1,355 additional tree works. Small increase in grass cutting costs. The Parish Clock is maintained by the Parish Council on behalf of the parish. In 2025-26: additional repairs. £185 for service and minor works in both years.
6,793.72	Cemetery	13,081.91	The Parish Council is the Burial Authority for the cemetery in Station Road. Costs include grass cutting contractor and additional maintenance, eg tree work, memorial safety work. In 2025-26: Grounds maintenance costs were £7,949.69, Tree works £4,430, water rates £99.02, £595.66 for waste collection
2,984.69	Streets support	3,553.90	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).
3,637.85	The Springs	10,794.24	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 2025-26: Tree works £7,000, grounds maintenance £1,223.14, hedge trimming £500, new noticeboard £817.50. Repairs at the springs £640, springs waste collection £613.60
8,325.55	Recreation Ground, Pavilions and Playground	5,881.82	Amenity area (includes some land owned by the charity 'Allotment for Exercise and Recreation' that is managed by Parish Council). Costs include grass cutting contractor, utility bills and general maintenance. Also RoSPA and quarterly maintenance inspection costs. General maintenance costs increasing due to age of building. In 2025-26: Toilet cleaning £3,034.68, toilet electric £147.70 Maintenance & repairs at pavilion £1,305.63, Electric Pavilion £258.02, Trees Rospa £325, grounds maintenance £1,864.13, water rates £220.16, waste collection £559.78, play equipment maintenance & inspection £1,349.10
2,933.71 4,012.69 576.62	Public toilets War Memorial Other parish assets	3,182.38 644.20 1,152.70	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 increased from last year.
2,124.97	s137 expenditure/grants (community support)	2,058.15	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 2025-26: £700 to St Mary's Church for hosting post office outreach at Parish Room, £142 defibrillator expenses, £90 Community Land Trust membership, £25.20 CLT hall hire,, £165 Community Energy Association membership, £200 Royston & District Community transport grant, £10 Recreation Ground charity grant, £150 St John Ambulance, £525 printing costs of leaflets (retailers support).
5,163.96	Zero Carbon Ashwell Community Project VAT	21,572.82 12,054.45	Non-business. Parish Council not VAT registered.
	Expenditure from allocated reserves (some grant funded)	0.00	
115,316.77	Totals	155,373.55	