

## Willington Parish Council: Financial Matters for Financial Year April 2025 - March 2026

### How We Spend Your Money – The Statement of Accounts

	Year to 31st March 2025 £	Year to 31st March 2026 £	Note Number
Balance brought forward	18,131	16,707	1
Plus Annual Precept	6,589	6,589	3
Plus Other Receipts	2,975	2,224	4
Less Staff Costs	3,472	3749	5
Less Other Payments	7,517	9,086	6
Balances Carried Forward	16,707	12,685	2

  

Fixed Assets	15,313	19,927	7
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**Summary:** The Parish Council's finances are, as in previous years, in good health. During the financial year 2025-26, our major sources of income were £6,589 from CWaC for the precept, £954 VAT refund from HMRC, and a much appreciated £1108 from our Borough Councillors' Members Budgets towards the bench and sign on Little Switzerland.

We therefore have a sensible bank balance despite having funded the installation of bird and bat boxes, the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) detector device, and the Little Switzerland bench and sign (and their installation).

We will maintain at least £3000 in general reserves by carefully managing the spend on Special Projects. This is 46% of the 2025-26 precept which is well within the 25-50% tolerance recommended by the National Association of Local Councils.

Our general reserves are reviewed at each Parish Council meeting to ensure that Council does not build up an unnecessarily high bank balance or allow funds to fall below an acceptable level. The funds ear-marked for Special Projects are not considered to be part of general reserves.

Potential Special Projects to be funded in 2026-27 include:

- £3000 Chapel Lane speed limit reduction (2026-27)
- £2000 initial tree management works on the Green
- £380 dog waste bin for Kingsgate
- £550 for a planter on the Green/Triangle
- £250 for another round of bat and bird box installations.

Note that the costs for the Willington Rd speed limit reduction (to 30 mph) implementation of £3833 (which were to be funded from previously accumulated reserves and a £2500 P&CC Office grant) which were quoted for by CWaC in 2023 are no longer included in Special Projects as they are very unlikely to need to be paid.

And that the £2750 set aside previously to support implementation of a Willington Rd speed limit reduction compliance strategy (if needed) is covered by the purchase and deployment of the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) detector.

#### Notes:

1. Balances brought forward means....the funds held in the Council's current and business savings bank accounts at the start of the 2025-26 financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2025).

2. Balances carried forward means....the funds held in the Council's current and business savings bank accounts at the end of the financial year April 2025 to March 2026. This is the balance carried forward to the 2025-26 financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2026).

3. Precept is the money the Parish Council receives from CWaC (via the Council Tax paid by our residents) to perform its duties. The 2025-26 precept (paid in April 2025) was £6589, no change from the previous year.

4. Other Receipts covers all other income received by the Council. in 2025-26 we received.....

- Bank interest of £162 (£90 lower than the previous year due to lower interest rates)
- VAT refund of £954
- £1108 from our Borough Councillors' Members Budgets towards the costs of the bench and sign on Little Switzerland.

5. Staff Costs are the total costs of employing the Clerk of the Council. These costs were £277 greater in 2025-26 than 2024-25 due to the applying the national pay award. The Councillors are all volunteers and do not receive payment for their work.

6. Other Payments cover all other expenditure incurred by the Council. In 2025-26 the main items of day to day expenditure were:

- Insurance - £241 (no change from the previous year)
- Staff heating and heating allowance - £312 (12 x £26)
- Clerk and Councillor Training - £340
- Office supplies and software - £288
- Newsletter and other printing - £423
- Website and e-mail hosting - £206
- Subscriptions to Cheshire Assoc of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and the Information Commissioners Office - £239
- Internal Audit fee - £278
- Sage Payroll software - £155
- Community Events - £55
- Task Force Materials - £51
- AED pads/batteries - £174

The main items of expenditure from Special Projects reserves were:

- Bird box installation - £175
- Elan City VAS device - £3468
- Bench on Little Switzerland - £935
- Sign on Little Switzerland - £1134

7. Asset Register – the increase in the Parish Council's assets to £19927 ex-VAT (from £15313) is a result of the purchase of the VAS device, and the bench and sign on Little Switzerland.

 *R. Winterbourne*

Responsible Financial Officer  
Willington Parish Council