

Treasurers Report 2025-26

Total Reserves held at yearend 2025/26 were £47153

The External Auditors strongly recommend that the maximum reserves should not exceed twice the Precept amount. The Precept for the year stood at £15000. Therefore the maximum Reserve balance would equate to £30000. Reserves were substantially above this threshold by £17153. The explanation for such an increase is attributed to the Affordable Housing Plan at the site of the old Egg Packing Station. After many years of complex financial calculations the plan became too expensive for any Housing Association to support and was officially closed with an unspent grant of £28839. This grant will be returned to W&F Council before the financial year end.

Therefore Parish Reserves less the remaining unspent grant were £18314, inside the recommended reserve threshold.

The PC agreed that the Precept increase by £650 to £15000 for 2025/26.

The most fundamental impact on this decision being the repatriation of the Parish Street Lights to W&F Council later this new financial year. Had this not been the case then an extra cost of £4000 would have meant a more substantial increase. The smaller increase primarily covered an increase in allocated grants totaling £4642.

A full audit externally is now necessary because of the turnover thresholds breaching the £25k limit of either income and expenditure. Albeit by a small amount on the expense side of around £300. This will add an extra cost for audit fees of around £350. Greater detail will be available on the Parish Website in June in accordance with the guidelines set by the external auditors under full review of our accounts. However, I have provided some basic detail in the variances between the accounts of 2024/25 and present day 2025/26 that have a significant difference.

Fishing Permits UP £350 - The Parish Council has fishing rights on a stretch of the River Eden and sells permits to non - parishioners to fish. Receipts vary from year to year due to interest/economics/weather.

Recycling Credits UP £427 - Recycling Credits were paid to the PC twice a year. However in 2024/25 only one payment was made as the local Council had restructured with another Council to become W&F and temporary teething issues prevailed. In 2025/26 three payments were made. At present W&F are just six months behind with payments.

Rents DOWN £581 - Whilst the donations from the Angel Lane Chip Van and Barugh Foods remained the same as was the rental of the Old School from Bud Designs, the insurance paid by Bud Designs on the property increased slightly. A new tenant paid

more to rent the Parish Sports Field for sheep grazing. However what brought down revenue were the one off donations **only in 2024/25** from two canoe outfitters using the car park as a launch site and a local plant hire business using the car park for equipment storage.

Bank Interest DOWN £191 - The unspent grant belonging to the former Eden DC for the Egg Packing Station Project kept a higher balance together with Parish Reserves. Though Parish Reserves were soon reduced and HSBC began to lower interest rates over the year. This has partly offset the previous costs of having to pay for full external audit reviews over the last few years compounded by the high reserves and transactions pertaining to them regarding the Egg Packing Station.

Staff Salaries UP £1911 - Due initially to an annual increase in wages under local authority guidelines, but the more significant increase is attributed to the PC decision to review the staff hourly pay against their experience, skill set and to compare with other PC pay structures. It was therefore deemed that the staff needed to be brought into line with present day wage inflation.

Staff Expenses DOWN £139 - Due to a reduction in stationery and printing costs.

Local grants UP £3832 - An increase in local organizations requiring funding for projects such as the Swimming Pool £2500 and the Village Hall £1200.

Maintenance UP £776 - A new Information Board for the Will Pool and repairs to the outside light attached to the Village Hall which was struck by a high sided vehicle drove up the costs.

Operating Costs UP £883 - The majority of general costs remained within small parameters, up or down, however the real uplift in expense came through a significant increase in Employers National Insurance Contributions £590 and the cost of a survey on a boundary wall on the site of the old Egg Packing Station £360.

Chris Hoy Treasurer LPC 6th May 2026