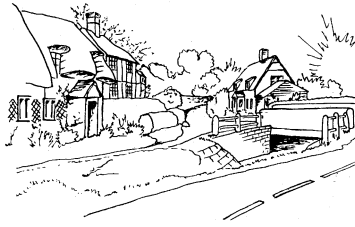


# ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



## ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20 May 2024, 7.30pm in the Arkesden Village Hall

### Financial Statement

The Arkesden Parish Council (APC) operating budget for 2023/2024 was finalised in December 2022. As we had seen in previous years, the anticipated expenditure of £15,865 surpassed intended income of £12,679. While the healthy opening bank balance of £6,117.48, primarily the result of low expenditure during the covid years, put the council in a secure position for 2023/2024, the disparity between the income and expenditure will continue to require careful planning by Council and Clerk over the next few years. It is anticipated that over the next few years, this opening bank balance will continue to reduce.

The budget required a precept of £12,000 which saw an increase from the previous year. The precept together with financial contributions from the Millennium Field Committee for insurance and the ROSPA playing field inspection, reimbursement of £1,367.79 in VAT and a donation towards footpath repairs resulted in an income of £16,467.79 for the year. The total expenditure for the year was £18,168.45 resulting in a closing balance of £4,416.82.

Unique expenditure for 2023/2024 focused on repairs to the footpath running from the Green Man to Watts Folly carried out early in 2024 and higher staffing costs due to an overlap in Clerk's. The Council also contributed to the PCC to pay for churchyard lighting during the winter. Annual charities included the Hundred Parishes Society, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of Clavering Primary School and regular donations to the Arkesden Village Hall and the Village News.

### Financial Summary

Opening balance	
April 2023	£6,117.48
Income	
Precept	£12,000
Total other income	£4,467.79
Expenditure	
Staff costs (including 3-month overlap of outgoing and new Clerk)	£8,255.81
Donations	£873
Other payments/running costs	£9,039.64
Closing balance	
March 2024	£4,416.82

Beth Sivyer (Clerk to the Parish Council)

## Assets

Fixed Assets include:

Asset	Asset Value	Asset Value 22/23	Location
2 x Filing Cabinets	£0.00	£0.00	Village Hall
9 x Benches	£1,924	£2,565	Two each on Quicksie Hill (one new in 2022) and at the intersection of Poore Street and Clatterbury Lane (one new in 2022) - four total. One each at: Newland End, Pump Green, the central village green, the path by the river, and one in Millenium field.
3 x Notice Boards	£1,443	£1,924	Quicksie Hill, Village Hall, and by Hill House.
12 x Bins (8 x litter bins & 4 dog waste bins)  NB – as of mid-March 2024, one bin in Quicksie Hill needs repairing	£556.50	£742	Litter bins – in front of the church fence, Pump Green, path by the river, two at Quicksie Hill, one at the intersection of Poore Street and Clatterbury Lane, one at the top of Long Lane, and one in Millenium field.  Dog waste bins – Quicksie Hill, path by the river, in front of Hill house, Millenium Field.
1 x Information Board	£760	£1,013	Pump Green
1 x Monitor	£0	£131	

The Clerk's printer remains functional but has a limited lifespan. The computer was not replaced when the new Clerk started in January 2024, with the Clerk using her personal computer and utilising Microsoft 365 to access files. While this system works well now, a computer for future APC business should be budgeted for. The state of all the assets was reviewed by both the outgoing and incoming Clerk in March 2024 to determine accuracy as to their condition and lifespan. This is reflected above.

## Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Please also note that the audit for FY 23/24 is being completed, and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for FY 23/24 will be posted on the noticeboards and the website. Approval of an *exempt* return will be finalised at the June Arkesden Parish Council meeting and the return submitted following this meeting prior to the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

Beth Sivyer (Clerk to the Parish Council)