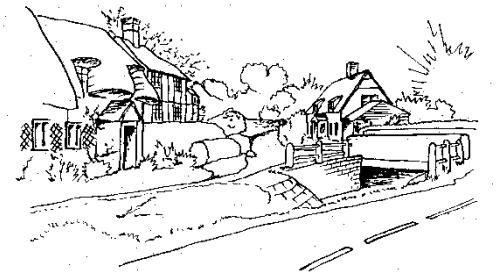
Arkesden Parish Council

The Village Hall,
Arkesden,
Saffron Walden,
Essex,
CB11 4HB
https://arkesdenvillage.com/



Annual Parish Meeting
Financial Statement
Provided by Beth Savory

Overview

Arkesden Parish Council remained in a stable financial position throughout 2025/2026 and ended the year with a closing balance of £6,628 compared with an opening balance of £6,003.

Although the Council incurred significant expenditure during the year, including the purchase of a new defibrillator, careful management of day-to-day spending enabled the Council to maintain and slightly improve its overall financial position.

The Council continued to take a cautious approach to expenditure where possible. Savings were achieved in several areas, including the Clerk continuing to use a personal computer and printer for Parish Council business despite provision having been included within the budget for replacement office equipment.

The Council approved an increase of £1,500 to the parish precept for the 2025/2026 financial year. This increase was considered necessary to strengthen the Council's financial resilience in light of increasing operational costs and ongoing expenditure commitments.

Historically, the Council's projected annual expenditure has exceeded anticipated income. While this position is manageable in the short term through existing reserves, it would not be sustainable if all budgeted expenditure were incurred in full each year.

The additional precept income has therefore provided greater financial security and reduced pressure on reserves, while still allowing the Council to maintain essential village services and respond to unexpected costs where required.

Beth Savory (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Financial Summary

Opening balance	
April 2025	£6,003
Income	
Precept	£15,500
Other income	£973
Expenditure	
Staff costs	£7,387
Other payments/running costs	£8,460
Closing balance	
March 2026	£6,628

Assets

Fixed Assets include:

Asset	Asset Value 25/26	Asset Value 24/25	Location
2 x Filing Cabinets	£0.00	£0.00	Village Hall
10 x Benches	£1,082	£1,443	Two each on Quicksie Hill, Pump Green and at the intersection of Poore Street and Clatterbury Lane. One each at: Newland End, the central village green, the path by the river, and one in Millenium field. The memorial bench installed on Pump Green by the Bull family has now been included within the fixed asset register.
3 x Notice Boards	£811	£1,082	Quicksie Hill, Village Hall, and by Hill House.
12 x Bins (8 x litter bins & 4 dog waste bins)	£312	£417	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	£427	£570	Pump Green

The Clerk uses her personal computer and utilises Microsoft 365 to access files. While this system works well now, a computer for future APC business should be budgeted for and if purchased, included in the asset review.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The audit for FY 25/26 is being completed, and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for FY 25/26 will be posted on the website. Approval of an *exempt* return will be finalised at the June Parish Council meeting and the return submitted following this meeting prior to the deadline of the 1 July 2026.

Beth Savory (Clerk to the Parish Council)