

Walsham le Willows Parish Council

Quarterly report of variances against budget

Explanations is provided for variances that exceed 15% of budgeted amount.

June 2021

1. Note that the budget for **streetlighting** has been exceeded by variance of 45.7%. The Clerk thinks this may be because the budget did not include the regular maintenance and electricity charges of approx. £2k or that the phase III was £2k more than expected. In addition, there was extra expenditure on the streetlamp outside the Memorial Hall (£500) which unexpectedly had to be replaced due to total failure. If Council decides to go ahead with the upgrade of the remaining 15 lamps in this financial year, assuming an approximate cost of £12k, the budget will be exceeded by 245% but this could be covered by the remainder of the earmarked reserves of £12k and general reserves.
2. 90% of the budget for **waste collection** has been spent but this is expected once the annual charges from MSDC have been paid.

September 2021

Nothing further to report.

December 2021

1. **Churchyard Wall Repairs** as recommended by the **survey** that was carried out following a collapse of infill onto public pavement which had to be addressed. And **funding for bulbs** to be planted in the closed churchyard along with **the removal of ivy from gravestones**. Together these resulted in a £8960.40 variance against a budget of £1000 (variance - 896%).
2. **Other Expenses**
 - The Parish Council decided to use the newly refurbished Memorial Hall **catering facilities** this year as a draw for the **Annual Meeting of the Parish**. This will be budgeted for in subsequent years. £104
 - Now that the meetings are held in a venue with broadband it was decided that the Parish Council should purchase a **projector** to facilitate the use of the internet in meetings along with projection of documents to reduce paper use. £451.97

These expenditures resulted in a variance against budget of £524.97 (variance - 262.5%)

March 2022

1. **Clerk's Pay** variance against budget of £1869.83 (variance 31.2%).

Taking the three largest payments additional hours can probably be attributed to Play Area lease work which was completed (May & June £754.24, October & November £723.24, December & January £877.77) these probably arose predominantly from liaison back and forth with and between neighbourhood plan group and consultants which has now significantly reduced, correspondence between Parish Councillors and developer and MSDC/SCC highways re adherence to planning conditions, neighbourhood plan liaison between councillors and consultant with regard to process issues, neighbourhood plan survey work, and possibly the time taken to engage contractors for stream maintenance work.

2. **Churchyard Mower, Fuel and Repairs** variance against budget of £85.08 (variance 21.3%) Payment of £349.00 in February for repairs. A somewhat larger bill than is usually expected.

3. **Maintenance of Village Assets** variance against budget of £7728.88 (variance 395.4%). This can be explained by two CIL grant payments £1000 for the allotments association for the repair of sheds and £6753.90 for the provision of new staging for the village hall.

4. **Other Expenses** variance against budget of £790.86 (variance 2208.3%)
New projector and accessories for parish council meetings (approx. £450) and £250 donation to the Community Council foodbank.

5. **Section 137** variance against budget of £160.00 (variance 32%) explained by a £500 donation towards the running costs of the Wild Wood. This was granted for three years with review at that time.

6. **Waste Collection** variance against budget of £106.93 (variance 11.3%). The purchase of litter pick signage to improve road safety for volunteers.