

Walsham le Willows Parish Council

Quarterly report of variances against budget

Explanations is provided for variances that exceed 15% of budgeted amount or £100.

To end December 2023

Income

1. **Street Cleaning Grant 0.00 / -100%** - We still have not recruited a pavement sweeper so no grant can be claimed for 1st quarter.

Expenditure

2. **Admin Expenses - £235.13 / -78.4%** - Purchase of toner cartridges £384.91. **Variance increased but was expected.**
3. **Footpaths P3 - £178.54 / -19.1%** Increase in grant and grant disbursement. **No change.**
4. **Neighbourhood Plan Grant Disbursement - £4373.38 / -404.9%** - Two payments for consultancy work and return of unspent grant for 2022/23. This will always be 'out' because we cannot claim and return unspent grant in same financial year and we are not using accrual accounting. **Increased in Q3** by £1,188 being the two final payments for consultancy for the last stage of the plan.
5. **Other Expenses – £491.36 / -163.8%** Catering for annual meeting of the Parish. **Increased in Q3** by £467 being the payment for unexpected consultancy on a planning application (350.00) and the fee for a planning application by the Parish Council which had been delayed by other matters (117.00).
6. **Streetlighting Repairs & Maintenance - £10,294.10 / -686.3%** - At the time of setting the budget we had had no response from numerous chasers as to whether final phase of streetlighting upgrades had been completed. Complete radio silence from SCC for so long that we thought maybe there would be nothing further to pay but that they could not be explicit about this. Wrong. After the budget had been set we got an inkling that something would be due and sure enough not long after the invoice arrived. £2218.66 for routine maintenance and electricity. More than budgeted amount due to recent inflationary pressures on energy prices which wiped out the savings we saw from the lamp upgrades. And £9,575.44 for the final phase of those upgrades. **No change**
7. **Churchyard Grass Cutting - £135.00 / -16.4%** - Two payments of 756.00 and 204.00 to another contractor due to sudden resignation, increased expenditure by more than the budgeted amount before the end of the financial year. This variance is expected to increase again in Q4.

8. **Churchyard Mower, Fuel & Repairs - £106.00 / -35.3%** Variance caused by the replacement of the strimmer which had not been expected (299).
9. **Neighbourhood Plan Other Costs - £361.23 -72.2%** - Colour covers for Observer publicity, flyers & banner for the referendum plus final printing costs for bound copies of the adopted NP and Design Codes more than budgeted amount.