

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 March 2024

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.
2. **Bank Interest 1042.88 / 744.9%** - Volatile interest rate situation. Was not clear at that time how long rates would remain higher.

Expenditure

3. **Admin Expenses - £265.13 / -88.4%** - Purchase of toner cartridges £384.91. **Variance increased but was expected. No change since December**
4. **Footpaths P3 - £178.54 / -19.1%** Increase in grant and grant disbursement. **No change since December.**
5. **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. **No change since December**
6. **Other Expenses – £850.96 / -133.7%** 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 (117.00). [NB typo in variance reported in December 2023 was 491.36 should have been 791.36]
7. **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. £2,218.66 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. Plus £9,575.44 for the final phase of those upgrades. **No change since December**

8. **Churchyard Grass Cutting - £360.00 / -43.6%** - 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.
9. **Churchyard Mower, Fuel & Repairs - £139.18 / -46.4%** Variance caused by the replacement of the trimmer which had not been expected (£299). **No change since December**
10. **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. **No change since December**
11. **Stream Maintenance - £495.44 / -23.6%** - More regular cuts required in previous year (on which budget was based) because of exceptional growth.