

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Statement of Significant Variances – 2023/24 vs. 2024/25

Actual Income

2023/24	2024/25	Variance (£s)	Variance %	Notes
£3,331.31	£2,994.00	£337.31	11.3%	The only grant applied for in the period was not received until after year end

Actual Expenditure

Item	2023/24	2024/25	Variance £s	Variance %	Notes
Clerk's Salary	£700.00	£58.10	£641.90	79.8%	The Clerk appointed on 1 April 2024 only remained in situ to the end of that month (£58.10). Until July 2024 there was no Clerk in position (the previous holder of the role helped). The salary for the new Clerk was reassessed in October 2024 but payment has not been made pending resolution of banking access. This will be resolved at the meeting of the Council in July 2025
Village Maintenance/Improvements	£499.49	£0.00	£499.49	100%	A project to enhance the village sign and surrounding area was achieved through a sponsorship arrangement in line with a newly set policy – work conducted in return for allowing advertising at the site
Hall Hire	£62.50	£0.00	£62.50	100%	At the date of this report invoices for hire have not been received; they have been chased. The actual difference will be marginal
Training	£0.00	£96.00	£96.00	100%	This was in respect of training for the Clerk appointed in April 2024

Street Lighting – Maintenance & Energy	£581.54	£0.00	£581.54	100%	Invoice was received too late to process prior to year end. That was for £642.99, so not materially different
Donations	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	100%	No donations made. For discussion at July 2025 meeting re policy
Return of Unused Grant	£920.00	£0.00	£920.00	100%	Self-explanatory, relates to intention to purchase 8 poles for ‘quiet lane’ signs. Authorised by Council 23 May 2025.
Elections	£132.64	£0.00	£132.64	100%	No elections held

Notes

The explanations re clerk’s salary and streetlighting highlight that the Council’s effective cash position is not accurately represented by the sum held in the bank account at the end of the period.

Clerk’s salary. It was clear that the Clerk had been materially underpaid for some time; no change to salary had been made since 2017 and that this was a factor in the Council struggling to attract/retain candidates for the role. A revised proposal, based on an estimated time commitment and related to the statutory minimum wage was submitted to and approved by the Council in January and represents an increase of 81% on the previous salary. This was a factor in setting an increased precept for 2024/25. The amount which relates to 2024/25, and which was outstanding at the end of the period is £850.90.

Training. Three Councillors and the Clerk have attended/are due to attend training sessions provided by SALC but invoices are yet to be received. The sum involved is c. £300.