

WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

(Approved on 19 May 2026)

Overview

Whimple Parish Council (WPC) remains in a sound financial position.

WPC prepared a detailed balanced budget of £27,461 for the 2024/25 financial year. However, the Council resolved to set the precept at £26,686, which meant that the Band D total would be £36.36 (an increase of £3.18 or a 9.59% increase).

The budget was prepared in November/December 2023, and was based on the best estimates of anticipated income and expenditure during the 2024/25 financial year.

Budget details:

Income was set at £27,461

This was made up of the precept of £26,686, bank interest of £25.00 and allotment income of £750.00.

Expenditure was set at £27,461

The detailed categories within the payments budget can be found below in the section relating to actual expenditure.

Actual income in 2024/25

During the year, the actual amount of income that came into the Council was £48,861, which was better than the budgeted income of £27,461:

	Budget	Actual
Precept	£26,686	£26,686
Bank Interest	£25	£569
Allotment Income	£750	£456
Grass cutting reimbursement	Nil	£327
DCC Councillor Locality Budget	Nil	£500
Community Infrastructure Levy Funding	Nil	£20,244
Refund of a community grant	Nil	£80
VAT Reclaim for 2023/24	Nil	£1,679
Total	£27,461	£50,541

Notes:

Precept

The amount of precept received by the Council was the amount budgeted.

Bank Interest

The Council took the decision to move its saving accounts to Unity Trust Bank, which is a community bank, to secure a much better interest rate. This is why the amount of interest is better than budgeted.

Allotment Income

The amount of allotment income was less than budgeted. The allotment bills were issued in early February 2025, and as at the end March 2025 chasing up of non-payments was still taking place.

Grass cutting reimbursement

The Council received an amount of £327 from Devon County Council for the cutting of visibility splays during the 2024/25 financial year.

DCC Locality Budget (Cllr Iain Chubb)

Cllr Chubb gave the Council £500 from his Locality budget to cover the costs of weeding the bed of the river running through the Square. The Environment Agency confirmed that the work could not be carried out during the period of 16 October 2024 to 1 June 2025 due to potential disruption to migrating fish. Quotes are in the process of being obtained and this work will be carried out in 2025/26.

The £500 has been added to an earmarked reserve.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income

During the 2024/25 financial year, the Parish Council received £20,244 of CIL from East Devon District Council (EDDC). This money has been added to the earmarked reserve for the play area project.

Refund of community grant

The Council received a refund from a grant recipient as the total costs for the project ended up being less than the amount of funding they had obtained from the Council.

VAT Reclaim

The Council reclaimed the amount of £1,679 VAT from the HMRC for VAT expenditure incurred during the 2023/24 financial year.

In summary, the Council budgeted income of ££27,461 but actually received £50,540 during 2024/25, resulting in £23,079 more income than anticipated.

To link the receipts back to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/25 the split between the precept and total other receipts is, as follows:

Precept = £26,686
Total other receipts = £23,854
Total = £50,540

Actual expenditure in 2024/25

During the year, the actual amount of expenditure incurred by the Council was £24,266 and was less than the budgeted expenditure of £27,461:

	Budget	Actual
Clerk's salary	£9,500	£9,359
Payments to the HMRC	£2,700	£2,724
Clerks expenses	£90	£54

Councillor expenses	£100	Nil
Administration	£600	£699
Allotment rent expenditure	£320	£345
Audit fees	£500	£310
Computer	£200	Nil
Subscriptions (DALC)	£529	£532
Dog & Litter Bin Emptying by EDDC	£3,300	£3,023
Grounds Maintenance work, i.e. grass cutting	£4,535	£2,936
Hire of Whimble Victory Hall for meetings	£250	£178
Insurance	£1,600	£1,523
Remembrance Sunday wreath	£30	£20
Telephone	£120	Nil
Training	£170	Nil
Water Rates	£267	£317
Essential Repairs	£2,000	Nil
Community Grants	£600	£525
Donation in remembrance of Cllr Alan McArthur	Nil	£200
Unity Bank Service Charge	£50	£71
VAT on payments	Nil	£1,450
Total	£27,491	£24,266

Notes:

Clerk's Salary

The actual expenditure on the Clerk's Salary was slightly underspent when compared to the budget. The budget included an estimate for the Local Government Pay Award which was slightly less than anticipated.

Payments to the HMRC for Income Tax (PAYE) and National Insurance Contributions

The actual figure was slightly overspent (by £24) when compared to the budget.

Clerks Expenses

The Clerks expenses was underspent when compared to the budget. Expenses included Land Registry searches, postage expenses and the purchase of a portable hard drive for the Council.

Councillor expenses

There was no expenditure against this budget during 2024/25

Administration

The administration budget was overspent (by £99) when compared to the budget. The costs under this budget category are:

- Finance system support & maintenance £277
- Website hosting & support costs £250
- Data Protection fee £40

- Moving across to the new gov.uk domain named website & setting up new gov.uk email addresses £132

Allotment Rent Expenditure

This is the cost of rental of the land at Grove Road which is used for allotments, as the Council does not own this land. Exeter Diocese (landowners) completed a rent review during 2024/25 and put the price up by £45, which was more than anticipated when setting the budget.

Audit Fees

The audit fees budget was underspent by £190. This included audit fees for both the Internal and External Audit process, which are legal requirements.

Computer

There was no expenditure against this budget during 2024/25

Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) subscription

The DALC subscription was pretty much on budget. The Council subscribes to DALC to ensure that it keeps up to date with legislation and best practice, as well as being able to get reduced rates on training for councillors and the Clerk.

Dog and Litter Bin Emptying

East Devon District Council provides this service for the Parish Council and had advised of a price increase in 2024/25. The actual expenditure was underspent by £277 when compared to the budget.

Grounds Maintenance

The grounds maintenance budget was underspent by £1,599 in 2024/25. This was due to the inclement weather during 2024/25 and the grass not being cut as often.

Hire of the Victory Hall

The budget for the hire of the Victory Hall for meetings was underspent by £72. The budget was set assuming that there would be one Planning meeting and one Council meeting each month (with the exception of August). However, the Council did not need to hold as many Planning Meetings as is it dependent on the planning applications coming forward from EDDC.

Insurance

The budget for insurance was slightly underspent (by £77).

Telephone

There was no expenditure against this budget during 2024/25.

Training

There was no expenditure against this budget during 2024/25.

Water Rates

The water rates budget includes Grove Road Allotments, Heberton Close Allotments and the Recreation Ground (Parish Field). The budget was overspent by £50. The water bills relating to the allotments are reclaimed back from allotment holders as part of the allotment fee.

Essential Repairs

No essential repairs needed to be carried out by the Council in 2024/25 so there was not expenditure against this budget.

Community Grants

The Council was slightly underspend (by £75) against this budget in 2024/25. The Council only received two applications for grant funding in 2024/25.

Donation

Following the death of Cllr Alan McArthur, who had been a councillor dedicated to serving his local community for over 22 years, the Council decided to donate some money to a charity supported by his family.

Bank Service Charge

The Council was slightly overspent (by £21) when compared to the budget. This is due to the fact that Unity Trust Bank increased the service charge for the current account to £6 a month.

VAT on payments

The figures in the other budget categories show the expenditure as net of VAT. Any VAT goes into a separate VAT account on the finance system. This resulted in VAT of £1,450 in 2024/25, which was reclaimed from the HMRC in April 2025.

In summary, the Council budgeted payments/ expenditure of £27,461 but actually spent £24,266 in 2024/25. This resulted in an underspend of £3,195.

To link the expenditure back to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/25 the split between staff costs and other payments is, as follows:

Staff costs (Clerks Salary and payments to HMRC) = £12,083

All other payments = £12,182

Total = £24,265

Year end position (31 March 2025)

Opening Balance (01/04/2024)	£48,421
(Add) Receipts in 2024/25	£50,540
(Less) Payments in 2024/25	£24,265
Closing Balance (31/03/2025)	£74,696

This gives an increase to reserves of £26,275

Reserves

The Council considered a report on Reserves on 22 April 2025. Following the decision made at that meeting the balance of £74,696 is split between:

Earmarked Reserves

Money has been set aside to complete several projects in 2025/26 and beyond, as follows:

- Village Maintenance = £5,000
- Neighbourhood Plan = £7,500
- Elections = £1,100
- Lomas Seat = £0 (moved to General Reserves)

- Play Area Project (Parish Field) = £35,549.08
- Locality Budget = £500
- Town Lane Project = £7,000

Total earmarked reserves are £56,649.08

General Reserves

The total in the General Reserves is £18,046.92