

# WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

## Overview

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

WPC prepared a detailed budget of £29,793 for the 2025/26 financial year and to set the precept at £28,443, which meant that the Band D total would be £38.11 (an increase of £1.75 or a 4.80% increase).

## Budget details:

### **Receipts (i.e. Income) was set at £29,293**

This was made up of the precept of £28,443, bank interest of £100 and allotment fees of £750.00.

### **Payments (i.e. Expenditure) was set at £29,793**

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

The difference of £500 (expenditure £29,793 – Income £29,293) was taken from reserves to set a balanced budget.

## Actual receipts in 2025/26

During the year, the actual amount of money that came into the Council was £37,307 which was better than the budget of £29,293:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Precept	£28,443	£28,443
Bank Interest	£100	£1,432
Allotment Income	£750	£743
Grass cutting reimbursement	Nil	£337
Community Infrastructure Levy Funding	Nil	£886
WACY Funding	Nil	£2023
VAT Reclaim for 2024/25	Nil	£1,450
VAT Reclaim for 2022/23	Nil	£1,993
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,293</b>	<b>£37,307</b>

## Notes:

### *Precept*

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

### *Bank Interest*

In October 2025 the Council took the decision to open second savings account and to transfer all but £500 from the current account into the savings account. This, and the interest rates not dropping as much as anticipated, meant that the Council earned £1,432 interest compared to the budget of £100.

### *Allotment Income*

The amount of allotment income was pretty much on budget.

### *Grass cutting reimbursement*

The Council received an amount of £337 from Devon County Council for the cutting of visibility splays during the 2025/26 financial year. The Council had not included this in the budget as there was a suggestion the payment would no longer be made to Parish Councils.

### *Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income*

During the 2025/26 financial year, the Parish Council received £886 of CIL from East Devon District Council (EDDC). This money has been added to the earmarked reserve for the Town Lane project.

### *WACY funding*

The former WACY Group gave the Council £2,023 on the proviso that it be used to install a goal mouth in the Parish Field. This funding was added to a separate Earmarked Reserve.

### *VAT Reclaim*

The Council reclaimed the amount of £1,450 VAT from the HMRC for VAT expenditure incurred during the 2024/25 financial year. An additional amount of £1,993 was reclaimed relating to the 2022/23 financial year after it was found that it had not previously been reclaimed.

In summary, the Council budgeted income of £29,293 but actually received £37,307 during 2025/26, resulting in £8,014 more income than anticipated.

To link the receipts back to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26 the split between the precept and total other receipts is, as follows:

Precept = £28,443

Total other receipts = £8,864

Total = £37,307

### Actual expenditure in 2025/26

During the year, the actual amount of expenditure incurred by the Council was £32,626 and was more than the budgeted expenditure of £29,793:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Clerk's salary	£9,960	£10,114
Payments to the HMRC	£2,600	£3,745
Clerks expenses	£90	£61
Councillor expenses	£100	£25
Administration	£700	£1,242
Allotment rent expenditure	£336	£390
Audit fees	£500	£440
Computer	£200	Nil
Subscriptions (DALC)	£585	£565
Dog & Litter Bin Emptying by EDDC	£3,950	£3,952
Grounds Maintenance work, i.e. grass cutting	£5,000	£4,541
Hire of Whimble Victory Hall for meetings	£250	£195

Insurance	£2,400	£931
Remembrance Sunday wreath	£30	Nil
Training	£170	£70
Water Rates	£350	£295
Essential Repairs	£2,000	£210
Community Grants	£500	£449
Donation to Whimple and Broadclyst Young Farmers	Nil	£400*
Unity Bank Service Charge	£72	£73
VAT on payments	Nil	£2,493
General Maintenance	Nil	£2,435*
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,793</b>	<b>£32,626</b>

*Items in red\* - money for some items was taken from Earmarked Reserves. See explanation below.*

Notes:

*Clerk's Salary*

The actual expenditure on the Clerk's Salary was overspent by £154 when compared to the budget. This was due to the Local Government Pay Award and the backdating of two SCP incremental raises going back to 2024, which had not been paid previously.

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

The actual figure was overspent by £1,145 when compared to the budget. This was due to the backdated incremental pay increase as well as the impact of the change to the level of National Insurance Contributions being paid.

*Clerks Expenses*

The Clerks expenses was underspent when compared to the budget. Expenses included Land Registry searches and stationery.

*Councillor expenses*

The councillor expenses related to the purchase of the Remembrance Wreath (which shows as zero against that budget line)

*Administration*

The administration budget was overspent by £542) when compared to the budget. The costs under this budget category are:

- Duplicate bank statements (for 2022/23 VAT reclaim) £48
- Finance system support & maintenance £345
- Website hosting & support costs £448
- Data Protection fee £52
- Defibrillator battery and pads £349

*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 2025/26 and put the price up again leading to an overspend of £54.

### *Audit Fees*

The audit fees budget was underspent by £60. 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 2025/26

### *Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) subscription*

The DALC subscription was slightly underspent by £20 in 2025/26. 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 2025/26. Prudent budget setting by the Council meant that there was a £2 difference between the budget and actual spend.

### *Grounds Maintenance*

The grounds maintenance budget was underspent by £459 in 2025/26. This was due to the inclement weather during 2025/26 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 £55. 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 underspent by £1,469. This was due to extra budget being factored in for the Parish Field Play Area and an inflationary increase. The Council market tested its Insurance for 2026/27 and found a better deal, saving in the region of £500 when compared to the previous providers quotation.

### *Training*

There was an underspend of £100 against this budget during 2025/26.

### *Water Rates*

The water rates budget includes Grove Road Allotments, Heberton Close Allotments and the Recreation Ground (Parish Field). The budget was underspent by £295. This was due to a new water meter being put in the Parish Field and the water companies actually reading the meters.

### *Essential Repairs*

£210 of essential repairs were carried out in 2025/26. This related to the removal of barbed wire in the Parish Field which was exposed when the area was strimmed. It was considered an essential repair as members of the public and animals could have been injured by the barbed wire.

### *Community Grants*

The Council was slightly underspend by £51 against this budget in 2025/26. The Council only received two applications for grant funding in 2025/26.

### *Bank Service Charge*

The Council was pretty much on budget. In March 2026 the monthly bank service charge went from £6 to £7.

### *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 £2,493 in 2025/26, which was reclaimed from the HMRC in April 2026.

### *Donation*

The Council paid a £400 donation to the Whimple and Broadclyst Young Farmers who cleared the Parish Car Park of overgrown weeds, foliage and brambles. This money was taken out of the Village Maintenance EMR.

### *General Maintenance*

The spend of £2,435 was made up of:

- £500 repair of the Lomas Seat
- £125 repair to the 'Welcome to Whimple' signage knocked down by a careless driver
- £550 for the clearance of the riverbed and riverbank in The Square (£500 was from the Locality Budget EMR)
- £1,260 for the clearance of the Town Lane site (taken from the Town Lane project EMR)

So the actual spend on this code (excluding EMR) was £675

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) = £13,859

All other payments = £18,766

Total = £32,625

### Year end position (31 March 2026)

<b>Opening Balance (01/04/2025)</b>	<b>£74,696</b>
(Add) Receipts in 2025/26	£37,307
(Less) Payments in 2025/26	£32,625
<b>Closing Balance (31/03/2026)</b>	<b>£79,378</b>

This gives an increase to reserves of £4,682

### Reserves

The Reserves Policy and balances is a separate report on the Council agenda on 18 May 2026, but the balance of £79,378 as at 31 March 2026 is split between:

### **Earmarked Reserves**

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

- Village Maintenance = £4,600
- Neighbourhood Plan = £7,500
- Elections = £1,100
- Play Area Project (Parish Field) = £37,806

- Town Lane Project = £6,626
- Parish Field Goal Mouth = £2,023
- Defibrillator = £500

Total earmarked reserves are £60,155

### **General Reserves**

The total in the General Reserves is £19,223.

However, £500 need to be removed as it was the balancing figure for the 2025/26 budget.

This takes the general reserves figure down to £18,723.