

Financial Report for Sandon Parish Council Meeting

15th January 2025

a) To Note receipt of Income

Financial Highlights for the current year to date (7th January 2025):

- Total receipts : full precept payment 9321.94
- HMRC VAT reclaim 212.76

Total payments received for current year to date (7th January 2025): £9534.70

Available Balance (£21379.87 Bank statement, less 3 uncleared cheque £624.70) £20755.17

b) To receive summary report of receipts and payments against

25 01 Budget & Management report

c) To receive bank reconciliation – Statement attached to check against above Budget Management report

d) To consider grant applications from local groups

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have notified that the appropriate sum for Local Government Act 1972 Section 137(4)(a) for Parish, Town and Community Councils for 2024-25 is £10.81.

398 electors x £10.81 = £4302.38

In 2023-24 we awarded £1380 worth of grants, £580 of which had to utilize the LGA 1972 Section 137(4)(a) power. These, however, were not cashed until after the end of the financial year.

With the £219.50 spent on the D-Day celebrations, that leaves the Parish Council with a maximum spend in 2024-25 of £3502.88 using the LGA 1972 Section 137(4)(a) power.

The cheque to the Sports Club for £160 towards decorating and flooring of the pavilion in 2023-24 has not been cashed.

| Organisation | Use to which 2024-25 grant would be put | 2023-24 Amount awarded | Amount applied for | Amount awarded |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| FOSS | Reading Cloud | £0.00 | £500 | |
| Gardeners Club | Engraving cups and trophies | £40.00 | Up to £100 | |
| Sandon Sports Club | Roof repairs | £160.00 Uncashed | £1500 | |

e) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget

- Namecheap – website hosting (\$50.89) £41.19

these are not available, it is highly likely that the Council will be unable to defend its position and will thus be held liable. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring that reports are always produced and logged promptly.

f) To note the 2024-25 Internal auditor [interim report](#)

the first meeting with the internal auditor from Hertfordshire (James Parker) has been concluded, A very positive and educational experience as always.

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Items to note:

- **B.** Recording VAT correctly in cash book – this has been addressed
- **C.** Ownership of the village hall has now been addressed, the Council holds the freehold as custodian trustee not beneficial owner and the management is undertaken by managing trustees.

The Playground reports need to be produced and logged promptly

- **D.** The internal auditor believes the precept needs to be an outcome of the budget process rather than an input. I believe we have addressed this in 2024-25.
- **L.** Background papers of the meetings would be more robust if they were incorporated within the parent document rather than linked.
- **O.** As noted before the council meets its responsibilities as Trustee in respect to the village hall.

g) To consider a playground management contractor

Broadmead Leisure have come recommended by several local parish councils – Paul Tucker