

WILLINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

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2018/2019 AGAR - Overview

As Councillors will be aware, all Parish Councils must complete an Annual Governance and Accountability Return or "AGAR". Last year we were subject to full external audit because the play equipment pushed our income and expenditure over the £25,000 limit below which certain exemptions apply.

There is a separate note from Juliet regarding the Internal Audit, which remains a mandatory requirement, but other than that, we have no requirement for external audit this year.

It is a mandatory requirement to publish our AGAR on the Parish Council website under the "Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities" and it is recommended that we have "numerical and narrative explanations available for significant variances" in the accounting statements, should a question be raised by a member of the public.

For Willingale Parish Council the financial summary looks like this:

	Year Ended	Year Ended	
	31-Mar-18	31-Mar-19	Difference
Precept	4,724	4,926	202
Total Receipts	42,353	4,377	- 37,976
Staff Costs	1,824	2,086	262
Other Payments	47,992	5,035	- 42,957

We therefore need to explain the significant variation in total receipts of £37,976 and payments of £42,957. This is quite easily done as they nearly all relate to the new play equipment! They can be summarised as follows:

Receipts

- £6,700 additional VAT refund associated with the play equipment.
- £20,000 Grant from Essex CC CIF Fund.
- £10,000 Big Lottery Fund grant.
- £1,500 in local fund-raising receipts for play equipment.

Total £38,200

Payments

- £35,436 related to the cost of the new play equipment & associated signage.
- £7,589 was in respect of increased VAT due to the play equipment spend.
- £628 reflected the fact that there were 3 verge cuts in the 17/18 financial year.
- Staff costs were a little higher due to the overlap of Clerks at the beginning of this financial year.

Total £43,653

NB – the reason that the variances between receipts and payments is £5,453 is because the Council contributed £3,500 from its own reserves, and there was a timing difference on VAT.

Meeting Procedures

It is recommended that the Council receives and notes the internal audit report prior to approving the annual governance statement, and thereafter the accounts themselves.

After the meeting, the accounts are published on the website together with a notice (also on Noticeboard) setting out the period during which members of the public may exercise their rights to inspect the accounts

David Stokes
Chair
9 May 2019