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| **Explanation for Significant Differences 2022-23** |

# 2021-22

In 2021-22 the Parish Council’s previously normal Income and Expenditure were distorted by the:-

1. Increase in the Parish Council’s Precept due to the increasing number of new Residents at “Elder Gardens” and “Acorn Gardens”.
2. Receipt of Grants for the Installation of Car-park Gates at the Village Hall, Repairs to the Stile on Parish Path 7, and work on the Neighbourhood Plan (which in the event had to be deferred to 2022-23).
3. Necessity for unforeseeable Repairs to Play Area Equipment.
4. Necessity to employ HR Consultants to deal with terminating one of our Clerk’s Employment (nevertheless, in the event the Parish Council’s overall Annual Staff Costs were fairly typical).

# 2022-23

In 2022-23 the Parish Council’s Income and Expenditure were again distorted by a number of factors:-

1. The further increase in the Parish Council’s Precept due to the increasing number of new Residents at “Elder Gardens” and “Acorn Gardens”.
2. It was decided to reclaim most of the VAT paid in 2022-23 (whereas this would usually have been deferred to 2023-24).
3. There were no Staff Costs, because Alan Jordan resumed his previous post as Parish Clerk, but because he was a Parish Councillor for 2021-22, by law could not be paid for this work during 2022-23.
4. Continuing substantial payments for HR Consultants, although these have now significantly reduced.
5. The Grant funded work on the Neighbourhood Plan was completed, and paid for.

Nevertheless, the Parish Council ‘s overall Financial Reserves have increased slightly, although recovery was much less than previously anticipated.

# The Future

The Parish Council faces a difficult cash-flow problem in 2023-24, because of the necessity to make large VAT payments for the repairs to the Northside Bus Shelter and the refurbishment of the Play Area. Whilst these VAT payments can be reclaimed, the delay before the money becomes available means that care will be required to ensure that Parish Council does not become overdrawn in the interim.

It has also been decided to complete work on the Neighbourhood Plan, which will provide significant protection against more unwanted development in the Parish. However, since no further Grants are available, this will have to be funded by the Parish Council. Consequently the Parish Council ‘s overall Financial Reserves are expected to reduce by the end of 2023-24.

However, thereafter the position should improve substantially as yet more new “Elder Gardens” and “Acorn Gardens” Residents pay the Precept. It remains the Parish Council’s plan to restore their Financial Reserves to a prudent level in future. Once this has been achieved, it may then be possible to reduce residents’ Council Tax payments.