

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	
1. Balances brought forward	84,345	80,586	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	20,397	20,543	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	5,156	6,262	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	6,530	6,122	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	22,782	42,275	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	80,586	58,994	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	80,586	58,994	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	31,702	31,702	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	00	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval:



Date

22 April 2024

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

1 May 2024

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE 316.13 (vii)

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



Explanation of any significant variances year on year in Section 2

Section 2, Box 3: the variance from the prior year (2022/23) for this box is £1,106 which is above 15%.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, schemes planned for 2020/21 and 2021/22 were able to be carried out in the financial year 2022/23 which meant the level of expenditure increased from the previous year which in turn affected the amount of VAT recovered (£1,250.78). The VAT recovered is claimed after 1 April each year and therefore not reflected in the accounts for the year it was accrued i.e., the £1,250.78 is shown as income in these accounts (2023/24). The amount of VAT recovered (to be recovered for 2023/24) for the last four years is as follows:

2020/21 - £761.68 shown as income in the 2021/22 Return.

2021/22 - £942.69 shown as income in the 2022/23 Return.

2022/23 - £1,250.78 shown as income in the 2023/24 Return.

2023/24 - £440.81 will be shown as income in the 2024/25 Return.

Section 2, Box 6: the variance from the prior year (2022/23) for this box is £19,493 which is above 15%.

With the lifting of restrictions in the financial year 2021/22, some of the work planned carried forward from 2021/22 was undertaken in 2022/23 e.g., West Way Nature Reserve (£5,000) and New Finger Post Signs (£1,373.00). This has meant that the expenditure in 2022/23 was much higher than normal.

Section 2, Box 7: the total reserves figure is more than twice Box 2. (i.e., £58,994...more than £41,086 being twice the Precept levied)

Below is a breakdown of the reserves held above £500:

- £613.69 - Office/Sundry.
- £1,000 - Employee Contingency (this was reduced from £2,000 in 2022/23).
- £6,811.22- Election/By-Election/Polls Reserve (this was increased from £5,000 to £7,000 in 2022/23 on the recommendation of the Returning Officer).
- £500 - Councillor Training.
- £1,901 - Grant Awards/Local Projects and Groups (increased from £2,000 in 2022/23 to £2,500).
- £4,480.08 - Village Improvements (Additional Seating & Footpath improvements).
- £1,000 - Improve Village Centre & Enhance Village Green.
- £500 - Tree Planting and Maintenance (reduced from £2,500 in 2022/23).
- £500 - Wildflower Meadows/Corridors.
- £10,000 - Astley Village Community Centre - Increase community use of the building*.
- £1,000 - Refurbishment of existing Gateway Signs (reduced from £2,000 in 2022/23).
- £500 - Wildflower Meadows/Corridors.
- £500 - Road Safety Maintenance of Speed Indicator Signs (reduced from £1,000 in 2022/23).
- £5,000 - Play area and path at West Way Sports Hub.
- £4952.86 - Improving Community Engagement and Raising the Profile of the Parish Council (increased from £1,500 in 2022/23 to £5,000).
- £18,864.07- General Reserve.

*It has now been confirmed that this scheme is unable to proceed, and the funding has been allocated to other projects in 2024/25.