

Icen Parish Council Fourth Quarter and Year End Financial Report 2024-2025

Council balance on 31st March 2025 - £14,339.62.

Receipts Fourth Quarter £2,791.17

The legally required once a year vat reclaim was made and £2,765.01 was refunded for the period from the 1st of April 2024 to 31st December 2024. Bank interest for the last quarter came to £26.16.

Payments Fourth Quarter net of vat £2,314.29

Council running costs for the quarter were £2,178.91, including £95 for subscriptions, £20 on training, office costs and mobile phone £171.66 and salaries £1,887.60. Lloyds Bank levied the first monthly account fee of £4.25.

With the closure of the Pavilion account a full quarter of electricity cost and water charges were taken at £171.66.

Year End Report

Receipts for the year £23,141.29 (not including the sports pavilion)

Anticipated income was £16,700. It is unpredictable to anticipate the income from the burial ground and so this is always under budgeted. The £500 budget was significantly exceeded with a total of £3,600. Interest from the reserve bank account is similar and is not included as a receipt for the budget but total bank interest came to £115.86. The playing field hire fee of £200 was received. Wilder Icen passed over its funds of £153.00 and is ring-fenced for nature recovery items. Office costs (stationary) are shared with Beckley and Pett Parish Council and are recharged and this came to £105.28. The council charge card started offering cash back during the year and 58p was taken off the monthly statements.

Payments for the year £19,680.94 (net of vat)

The grass contract (playing field, churchyard, and new burial ground) came in slightly under as the ground was very wet preventing heavy machinery on to it. Additionally, a saving was made as the brambles were not sprayed. There were no general maintenance costs for the playing field.

The play area inspection was inline with budgeting and there were no general maintenance costs for that area.

Following high winds, a cherry tree in the churchyard had to be removed and the cost £1,200 (allocated £1,000 to the contingency budget and £200 to burial ground general maintenance).

The council is fortunate to now have a handy man in receipt of an honorarium £100 (allocated to the contingency budget) who has carried out several tasks saving the council money. He has mended the pavilion rear toilets door, cleared the pavilion gutters, repaired the shiplap on Elmsmead bus shelter and work on the fingerposts, which easily exceeded the honorarium if a contractor had been employed.

Following on, the only other assets expenditure has been on the urban verges and wildflower verges: £670.83.

The council's running costs, which had a budget of £10,763 covering staff; office costs; insurance; subscriptions to various bodies that provide the council with legal and financial assistance or services; salaries; website and laptop programmes; chairman's allowance, mobile phone, hall hire and additionally this year bank account monthly charges, came in at £10,633.07. However, the back pay due to the clerk will fall into the next fiscal year and the final office costs are, considering recharge is £642.61.

The level of donations is high this year because of the donation to the Save the Bell Inn of £1,650. The air ambulance received £200 and the poppy Appeal £50.

The refurbishment of Elmsmead bus shelter was completed this year and creosote and shiplap cost £231.79 (net of vat).

Sport Pavilion

As a result of Lloyds Bank decision to start charging a management fee per account the pavilion account was closed. The hire receipts and the funds transferred from the sports association folding no longer covered the pavilion running costs. The council was having to transfer money to cover running costs by November 2024. Running costs involve a fire extinguisher check, building safety check, electricity, water, and foul waste but not insurance. Expenditure came to £1,216.52 and was not covered by income at £902.41.

Overview

Council balance on 31st March 2025 - £14,339.62.

Earmarked reserves total £9,629

Reserve £9,000 (update to reflect the increase in precept for 2025-2026)

Website £230.00

Garden Society donation £246

Nature Recovery £153

Leaving £4,710.62 (close to that predicted in the third quarter report)

As stated in the earlier the report the extra receipts from the burial ground and the reduction in the costs for cutting the grass through the village and savings from having a handy man, has covered the unexpected donation to the Save the Bell and pavilion deficit.