

Ardleigh Parish Council

Financial Statement to 31 March 2026

2024-25

2025-26

Actual		Year to Date	Budget	% of budget	Actual	% change from last year
RECEIPTS						
81,077.00	Precept	97,309.00	£97,309	100%	97,309	20%
1,910.02	Bank Interest	1,502.09	£1,500	100%	1,502	-21%
12,040.00	Burial and memorial fees	7,345.00	£6,666	110%	7,345	-39%
0.00	Floral display and other-Sponsorship	0.00	£2,500	0%	0	-
4,945.00	Grants	7,700.67	£5,000	154%	7,701	56%
5,119.31	ECC verge cutting/ devolution pilot grant:	5,288.24	£5,500	96%	5,288	3%
7,924.02	VAT refund	10,572.84	£10,000	106%	10,573	33%
9,705.25	VH salary contribution	10,693.57	£11,000	97%	10,694	10%
2,500.00	Recreation Ground Contribution	3,287.20	£2,500	131%	3,287	31%
2,000.00	Legal Fund donations	27,208.60	£0	-	27,209	1260%
127,220.60	Total RECEIPTS	170,907.21	£141,975	120%	170,907	
PAYMENTS						
AMENITIES						
7,175.18	Cemetery/ Churchyard- Grass/Maint	7,447.35	£11,460	65%	7,447	4%
361.68	Cemetery/ Churchyard- Other- inc depos	301.00	£750	40%	301	-17%
1,272.50	Recreation Ground- Grass/Maint	3,727.70	£2,400	155%	3,728	193%
12,091.18	Recreation Ground- Sprts & Play Equip	391.39	£4,500	9%	391	-97%
1,625.00	Millennium Green- Grass/Maint	2,756.00	£2,000	138%	2,756	70%
2,145.97	Millennium Green- Sprts & Play Equip	4,636.80	£4,500	103%	4,637	116%
1,397.00	Village Hall- Grass/Maint	462.29	£1,800	26%	462	-67%
5,728.82	Village Hall- Safety and Infrastructure	1,942.97	£3,000	65%	1,943	-66%
225.00	Colchester Road- Grass/Maint	583.72	£972	60%	584	159%
364.34	Colchester Road- Sprts & Play Equip	4,729.40	£1,000	473%	4,729	1198%
1,250.00	Highways- verges	1,895.00	£3,432	55%	1,895	52%
5,200.00	Other areas, Grass/Maint	523.00	£5,760	9%	523	-90%
455.00	Other areas, Trees	350.00	£2,400	15%	350	-23%
1,485.00	Floral Displays	400.00	£2,000	20%	400	-73%
588.02	Street furniture	3,489.11	£0	-	3,489	493%
2,462.43	Footway lighting	2,886.32	£3,000	96%	2,886	17%
697.64	Archivist	611.39	£600	102%	611	-12%
44,524.75	Amenities subtotal	37,133.44	£49,574	75%	37,133	
ADMINISTRATION						
1,039.56	Insurance	1,184.40	£1,040	114%	1,184	14%
6,633.45	Professional fees (inc Audit)	18,421.47	£6,000	307%	18,421	178%
0.00	Spend on items no power for (S137)*	1,680.00	£2,000	84%	1,680	-
3,221.30	Subscriptions (inc IT)	3,941.67	£4,000	99%	3,942	22%
240.00	Councillor allowances and elections	344.10	£600	57%	344	43%
54,600.82	Salaries and PAYE	57,974.20	£63,211	92%	57,974	6%
1,036.56	Office space and equipment/ hardware	1,547.92	£1,500	103%	1,548	49%
1,356.76	Mileage and other expenses	1,375.15	£1,250	110%	1,375	1%
375.15	Postage (includes PO box)	381.82	£400	95%	382	2%
397.08	Telephony (not IT)	423.40	£400	106%	423	7%
517.07	Stationery, printing and literature (includi	153.78	£800	19%	154	-70%
465.00	Training Courses, meetings, etc	1,249.18	£700	178%	1,249	169%
399.13	Special events	1,162.83	£500	233%	1,163	191%
458.34	Neighbourhood Plan/ LAND PURCHASE	0.00	£0	-	0	-100%
4,706.00	Contingencies and new projects	0.36	£0	-	0	-100%
75,446.22	Administration subtotal	89,840.28	£82,401	109%	89,840	
119,970.97	Total PAYMENTS	126,973.72	£131,975	96%	126,974	
10,013.72	VAT paid reclaimable	9,562.40	£10,000	0%	9,562	
129,984.69	Gross Outgoings	136,536.12	£141,975	9%	136,536	
-£2,764.09	Surplus/(Deficit)	£34,371.09	£0		£34,371	

key adjusted since last report

* [Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils announced for 2025/26](#)

ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Report to

31 March 2026

	2024-25			2025-26
£				£
	128,910.78	Opening balances at 1st April 2025		126,146.69
	-2,764.09	PLUS receipts (as detailed overleaf)	170,907.21	34,371.09
		LESS outgoings (as detailed overleaf)	136,536.12	
	126,146.69	Closing balances in hand on		160,517.78
		31 March 2026		
£		Represented by:		£
2,468.07		Barclays Current a/c 3423		35,337.07
50,715.19		Barclays Business Premium (Deposit) a/c 3474		51,331.13
72,963.43		Barclays General Reserve (Cemetery Extension) 7650		73,849.58
-		uncleared cheques	-	-
	126,146.69			160,517.78

check sh/be ZERO - -

	2025-26
	£
Reserves (general/ earmarked at date of report)	
General Start of year	53,146.69 *
Adjustments this month	34,371.09
transfers to earmarked reserves	- 26,500.00
<i>Total general</i>	61,017.78
Earmarked reserves:	
Cemetery extension	73,000.00
Legal Fund	20,500.00
Village hall car park repairs	6,000.00
<i>Total earmarked</i>	73,000.00
Total reserves (agree current balances)	134,017.78
Current balance	160,517.78

* % of budgeted expenditure this year 40.27%
no of months spending 4.83

████████████████████
ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
PO BOX 12865
GREAT BROMLEY
COLCHESTER
CO7 7EZ

Your Business accounts – at a glance

Up-to-date account information

To get your current balances or find out about other accounts you have that aren't listed here, log on to online banking (if you're registered), or call us on 0345 605 2345 .

Your balances on 31 March 2026

Business Current Accounts

Community Account Statement	£35,337.07
.....	
Sort Code 20-22-67 • Account No ██████████	

Business Savings Accounts

Business Premium Account	£73,849.58
.....	
Sort Code 20-22-67 • Account No ██████████	

Business Premium Account	£51,331.13
.....	
Sort Code 20-22-67 • Account No ██████████	

Business Premium Account	£31,611.51
.....	
Sort Code 20-22-67 • Account No ██████████	

[This is the end of your account summary.](#)

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority

County area (local council and parish meeting only)

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);

- variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;

- **New from 2025/26 onwards:** variances of £500,000 or more in Box 3 require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year for smaller authorities with income and/or expenditure exceeding £0,500,000

	2024/25		2025/26		Variance	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input, DO NOT OVERWRITE: a difference SE BOX 5	Explanation from smaller authority, must include narrative and supporting figures!
	£	£	£	£					
1 Balances Brought Forward	128,311	126,147	81,077	97,309	16,232	20.02%	YES	Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	The increase was 20% in cash terms, but 14.7% for each household as there was an increase in the tax base from 1,156.1 in 24/25 to 1,209 for 25/26. The explanation given to the principal authority at the time that the increase precept was set was as follows. The 2024-25 budget had been optimistic to keep council tax rises as low as possible. Unfortunately a deficit is now expected at the end of the current year. (note this was the case) An increase in the Precept or in other income is needed to meet predicted rising costs. -All maintenance contracts are due to be renewed in April 2025 and are expected to rise significantly compared with 2022 prices. -Legal and other professional fees needed to be accounted for (with Ardleigh at the epicentre of National Grid and windfarm proposals). -Burial income is forecast to stop within a few years unless more burial land can be provided. If not, then the Council will need to absorb the cost to maintain the churchyard and cemetery without any income; it was agreed to reduce budgeted burial income by a third over the next three years to prepare for this eventuality. -Staffing costs include predicted national pay awards and changes to National Insurance employer contributions.
3 Total Other Receipts	46,144	73,598							the biggest increase was in donations to our legal fund (£2000 in 2024-5, £27209 in 2025-6) to obtain legal advice and representation in relation to ongoing national Infrastructure Project proposals for our parish. This item alone accounts for £25,209 of the £27,454 variance. Other changes include an increase in grant income from £4945 to £7701- difference £2756. There was an increase in the amount of VAT reclaimed from £7924 to £10,693 difference 2648. A reduction in Cemetery income of -£4695 (12040 to 7345) and an increase in contribution from the Recreation Ground charity for maintenance costs from 2500 to 3287- difference £787. There was an increase in the contribution towards management/ salary costs for the Village hall from £9705 to £10694 difference £989. Other lines had smaller variances.
4 Staff Costs	54,601	57,974			27,454	59.50%	YES		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0			3,373	6.18%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	78,363	78,363			0	0.00%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	126,147	160,518			3,178	4.22%	NO		
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	126,147	160,518						VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	191,064	181,621			-9,443	4.94%	NO		VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
10 Total Borrowings	0	0					NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

Statement Regarding Data Compliance (Assertion 10)

Introduction

Ardleigh Parish Council recognises the updated requirements introduced in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide in relation to Assertion 10 – Digital and Data Compliance. These requirements expand expectations on councils in respect of IT governance, website compliance, email management, and data protection.

Due to the scope and complexity of these new requirements, together with current capacity constraints, the Council has not yet fully met all elements necessary to provide a positive assurance against Assertion 10 for the current reporting period.

Actions Already Implemented

- Use of council-owned email accounts: .gov.uk email addresses are now used for officers and the majority of councillors, supporting secure communications and auditability.
- IT support and data security arrangements: The Council has partnered with Cloudy IT to provide professional IT support, secure data storage and backups, and improved system resilience.
- Existing website presence: The Council maintains a public website which provides access to council information and supports transparency and communication with residents.

Areas Still to be Completed

- Adoption of a formal IT Policy: A comprehensive IT policy governing secure and appropriate use of systems is not yet fully developed or adopted.
- Website compliance and accessibility: Further work is required to ensure full compliance with accessibility standards, maintain an up-to-date accessibility statement, and ensure consistent publication of required documents in accessible format.
- Data audit: A formal, documented data audit has not yet been completed to fully map and evidence personal data processing.

Conclusion

Assertion 10 requires fully implemented, documented and evidenced compliance across all aspects of digital and data governance. While the Council has made clear progress, including adoption of .gov.uk email and strengthened IT support arrangements, some key elements remain incomplete.

The Council has therefore taken a transparent and prudent approach in confirming that it is not yet able to provide full assurance for this assertion. The Council is committed to addressing these areas in the coming year.