

**WHITCHURCH AND GANAREW GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Finance year ending 31 March 2023**  
**Notes to the finance report**  
**Prepared May 2023**

**Income**

The precept remained the same as the previous year – the Council being mindful of the increased costs that parish residents and families were experiencing.

The Parish Council became a member of the Herefordshire Council Community Hub Scheme and was awarded a grant of £2497 towards supporting parish activities. This will further help the Good Neighbour Scheme activities and Sticky Little Fingers as well as potential new activity areas.

The Parish Council hold the funds for this scheme separate to the parish accounts. By this opportunity the Council would like to say a huge thank you to those residents who give so much of their time and so willingly to all of these groups. Very much appreciated ! We also received a grant £1200 from Herefordshire Council / Balfour Beatty for drainage scheme work which was used to improve flood control on Talybont Lane.

We have recently applied and have been successful in obtaining a further grant for parish lengthsman work which will be used in the new financial year.

**Payments**

Parish lengthsman work – together the finance and the lengthsman working groups reviewed and revised all the work segments involved including frequency and efficiency. We have appointed a new contractor to gain greater value in use / time efficiency which will result in reduced costs over the year gaining however an improved service level.

Energy and other rising costs regretfully reflected on the Christmas tree and lighting needing to be revised as the costs for the December / January period would have been far more than double to any previous years.

Instead - a permanent tree to celebrate the life of our late Queen will be planted near to the family play area where it can be greater appreciated and will be highlighted by solar lights on special occasions. The tree for traffic visibility safety reasons cannot be planted on the grass near the parish notice board.

We have purchased further dog bins to continue to control litter and dog mess and to improve parish quality to residents and our visitors that are growing in numbers to our beautiful area. A new level of maintenance to both litter and dog bins will give a further advantage in control as part of our efforts to support tourism and all associated business contributors.

The Council continue to support our two lovely historic churches with a contribution to both towards churchyard maintenance.

Footpaths and public rights of way – these are regularly walked by our footpaths officers, and we will now be further supported by Herefordshire Council appointed officers to help us in any problem situations. Recent site meetings have proved most positive, and they have already inspected all Doward lanes and are resolving a plan of action.

A new locality steward has also been appointed to assist in road related matters working with our Chairman and Clerk. He is practical and experienced and appreciates the challenges we have as a parish.

Section 137 represents

Community Hub involving our various active social groups

Christmas activities

Family play area

Two churchyard maintenance contributions

Memorial Hall wifi

Defibrillator sites maintenance and service

Clock Tower energy costs and service – the pc do not own the clock tower but support these costs as a service to the parish