Finance Report to Annual Parish Assembly 2026

Every year we are required to prepare and present the Audited Accounts to the Annual Parish Meeting. They represent the financial activities of Hedge End Town Council during the previous fiscal year.

They show the income and expenditure of the Council and have been subject to scrutiny and examination by our own accountant and auditor and then presented to independent external auditors for final approval and comment.

Each year we look at all expenditure to achieve best value for money. This has meant a complete review of how we work and what we spend our income on. I believe that this has made the Council more efficient in the way in which we work.

In the financial year 24/25 we reviewed valuations of our buildings ensuring that insurance cover was sufficient in the changing financial climate.

We issued grants to community groups to support them to achieve their objectives.

In addition to our normal work, we had several projects during the year including:-

- The re-roofing of the 2000 Centre
- Agreed the Fleet Strategy and Legionella Policy
- Improved the drainage from the 2000 Centre outdoor areas
- Purchased a replacement vehicle from developer contributions
- Demolished an unfit portacabin that was incurring ongoing maintenance and expenses.

I would also like to update you on projects going on this year.

- HETC is taking responsibility for several more areas of green space increasing its overall footprint by half again. Initial inspections will identify immediate works, and future assessment will enable more informed management practices next year.
- Replaced play areas at Nelsons Gardens and Locke Road.
- Converted the flat above the Old School House into residential accommodation which has now been let providing additional income to the council.

Finally, I am sure you are all aware that the Council remains responsible for providing several services, including Sports Facilities and Playing Fields, Paddling Pool, 11 Play Areas, 5 Community Buildings, 2 Allotment sites and the Cemetery as well as bins, benches and other sundry items.

Maintenance of these is managed by our staff and its thanks to them that we continue to achieve the high standards to which we aspire. We continue to monitor all our assets regularly.

If there are any specific questions, could I ask that these are given to our Clerk who will liaise with the Chair of Policy & Resources to enable a reply to be provided.