

# STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT: SUPPLEMENT

### 1. Context

Since the summons was issued for the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 meeting I've become aware of a substantial number of unpaid invoices for the Lengthsman Scheme (Terry Griffiths Contracts).

### 2. Unpaid Invoices

A statement from Terry Griffiths Contracts is attached. It shows a sequence of 12 invoices unpaid between March 2024 and December 2024, to a total of £4,303.20.

This total is inclusive of VAT, amounting to around £717.20, which can be reclaimed from HMRC. however, see paragraph 5 below.

### 3. Herefordshire Council Lengthsman's Grant

Herefordshire Council has already provided the maximum funding possible.

Funding to cover five invoices has already been reclaimed from Herefordshire Council. A payment of £1560.00 was made on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and £600.00 on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – that is to say, both were in the financial year just closed.

There invoices concerned were:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Invoice No</u>	<u>Total £</u>	<u>Recharged by Herefordshire Council</u>
29/03/25	2668	600	08/05/24
29/03/25	2671	720	10/05/24
29/03/24	2672	480	10/05/24
29/03/24	2669	240	10/05/24
29/03/24	2670	120	10/05/24

A further claim was made for the 2024/25 financial year of £2540.00 referencing invoice 2668, which had already been paid and did not refer to £2540.00. This was credited by Herefordshire Council on 28 April 2025. It is not clear to what invoices this relates.

The total grant available in 2025-26 is £1740 plus £800 matched funding, a total of £2540.00

#### 4. Conclusion

Total invoices due for payment				£4,303.20
Grants from Herefordshire Council	08/05/10	£600.00		-£600.00
	10/05/10	£1,560.00		-£1,560.00
	28/04/25	£2,540.00		-£2,540.00
VAT reclaimed	To follow	£717.20	less £360 paid by Herefordshire Council	-£357.20

It seems likely, judging by the sums invoiced against Herefordshire Grant, that the parish has claimed the full sum, inclusive of VAT, rather than the net sum, exclusive of VAT. Herefordshire Council has therefore paid £360.00 of Staunton on Wye PC's VAT – and it would constitute fraud for the parish to reclaim that VAT once again from HMRC.

The VAT reclaimed is not therefore £717.20 but less £360.00, a total of £357.20.

The eventual result is £5,057.20 income, against £4,303.20 expenditure, a net positive balance of £754.00.

The Lengthsman Scheme is not meant to yield a profit to Parish Councils: this should be off-set against Lengthsman spending in the current financial year, and an appropriate disclosure made to Herefordshire Council.