

Iden Parish Council Second Quarter Financial Report 2024-2025

Council balance on 30th September 2024 - £18,840.55. Earmarked reserves total £9,060.36 (reserve of £8,000 and three other ring-fenced sums (Website £661.36; garden society donation £246 and £153 Natural Recovery). The final cost £3,795 of the ashes area creation agreed last year has now been settled. A £500 transfer to the Pavilion Account is also held in the account. The final precept payment of £8,000 has also been received.

Receipts Second Quarter £9,888.37

The second half of the precept £8,000 along with £1,600 from the burial ground £153 from the Rewilding Iden, and bank interest of £29.87. There are also a few pennies in cash back for the charge card -22p and refund of £105.28 from Beckley and Pett PCs for ink.

Payments Second Quarter net of vat £5,891.83

Expenditure in this period has included £2,240 being about half the grass cutting fee for the playing fields, play area, closed All Saints churchyard and the New Burial Ground. The footpath team also replaced some of the main support posts for the Chestnut paling fence between the cemetery and parking area of the playing fields and installed a new stand for the brass plaque recording the donation of the land by Mr Mason, costing £47.43. The play area equipment inspection (£78) was completed and no major issues raised. The cemeteries, playing field and play area costs are in line with budget.

Under the heading of Other Smaller Assets, the Elmsmead bus shelter repairs and repaint was finally completed - £75.83. This budget has exceeded straight off with insufficient budget being allocated but this may only be exceeded by a few hundred pounds.

Council running costs for the quarter were £3,218.78, including £911.82 for council insurance, £210 for external audit, and £35 data handling fee. At six months these are as expected.

As was stated in the previous quarter report the donations budget has been exceeded.

Overall, the general spending is slightly under 50% of that budgeted. Without an unexpected receipts such as from the Burial Ground any overspend will come from reserves. It should be noted that 'general reserves' held are there to cover the cost of an unexpected serious event. This could be anything from an insurance claim not being covered or a Health and Safety Executive fine. The council is the closest it has been to only holding just this reserve in the last thirteen years.

It should be noted that the parish council budgeted £2,000 more than it requested in council tax to reduce the unallocated funds held but it has also spent a large amount on repairing the pavilion in recent times which have been covered by these unallocated funds.

The pavilion funds have been exhausted for some time and the council is having to use other funds to cover the pavilion running costs.