

SYRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

RFO FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-24

Financial summary

Syresham Parish Council spent £32,867 during the 2023-2024 financial year, which was £9,255 less than the spend for the previous financial year.

The following payments in 2022-23 of £5,063 on new playground fencing, the appointment of a planning consultant for £2,160, a larger number of S137 local organisations grants of £802, jubilee celebrations of £1,000 and an entertainment grant for the local amateur dramatics group of £1,500 will account for much of the reduction in spending for 2023-2024.

The council has been continuing to make repayments on a loan that was originally taken out in 2021 for £13,000. The loan was for the streetlighting upgrade and will be paid off in May 2024.

The parish finances are very healthy, with a predicted balance to be brought forward to the 2024-25 financial year of £37,447.88, (of which £8,300 are earmarked reserves).

Financial Governance

All invoices are checked and signed by 2 councillors subject to approval at Full Council Meetings, where all financial decisions are agreed and any payments made are minuted, with the accounts and financial documents being checked quarterly by Cllr Green. The Parish Council also pays for an independent auditor to carry out an interim and an end of year audit. The accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is also audited externally.

It was agreed to strengthen Internal control further by switching from Excel to Scribe accounts from 1st April 2024.

The 2022-23 AGAR was audited, and the external auditor stated that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual return is in accordance with proper practices. In line with Audit regulations the close of audit was published on the web site 27/09/23.

During 2023-24 Councillor Green carried out Internal Credit Control checks and recorded no issues. The independent internal auditor also had no recommendations for improvements.

The AGAR for 2023-24 is now in the process of being prepared for external audit. There will be a period for residents to examine the accounts, notices will be displayed giving details and dates.

All financial information and detailed accounts can be found on the Parish website:
www.syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Nichola Ali, Syresham Parish Clerk & RFO