

HARTEST PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

SECTION 1 – The Statement of Accounts

Line 2 - Annual Precept

The annual precept was increased from £14,635 to £15,220, a near 4% increase to take account of inflation.

Line 3 – Total Other Receipts

A near 48% fall in total other receipts from £7,933 to £4,076 is almost entirely attributable to a much lower £736 (£3,864) VAT refund. Bank interest also fell from £656 to £509, while cemetery income also dropped from £443 to £210 and the PC received an extra £670 in grant money.

Line 4 – Staff Costs

Staff costs rose by 6.4% to £7,022. The Clerk's hourly rate rose by 69p to £16.90 in line with NALC recommendations in October 2025, backdated to April. Payments to HMRC also rose from £87 in 24/25 to £461 in 25/26.

Line 6 – All Other Payments

These fell dramatically by 67% from £29,329 to £9,532. In 2024/25 the PC had used its CIL money to pay just over £10,000 towards an energy upgrade at the village hall and £414 to the PCC for a leaflet design. In 24/25 the Parish Council also incurred £7,683 in consultancy fees for its Neighbourhood Plan, £1,620 on cemetery testing headstones and £468 on a traffic survey. None of these costs were repeated in 25/26.

With kind regards

Yours faithfully



Diane Rix
Parish Clerk and RFO