

HARTEST PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 SECTION 1 – The Statement of Accounts

Line 2 - Annual Precept

The annual precept was increased from £13,629 to £13,938 a 2.2% increase to take account of inflation.

Line 3 – Total Other Receipts

There was an 11% rise in total other receipts from £8,628 to £9,589. Bank interest rose by over £500 as interest rates generally rose. There was a £1,134.80 VAT refund, where there had not been any at all the previous year.

Line 4 – Staff Costs

There was a 4,3623% rise in staff costs from £205 to £9,149. This is wholly accounted for by the fact that the previous clerk who resigned in January 2023 had failed to submit hardly any invoices during 2022-23. The current clerk – with no paperwork from the former clerk who refused to hand it over – then had to work tirelessly to try and get the Parish Council back in a state of order. Between February and May she was paid a higher than normal locum fee before agreeing to commit to the role full time.

Line 6 – All Other Payments

There was a near 27% rise in all other payments from £13,668 to £17,338. Neighbourhood Plan consultancy fees were £1,320.48; a new laptop and software for the Clerk were purchased costing £243.89 and an unspent grant of £5,785.52 had to be returned.

With kind regards

Yours faithfully



Diane Rix
Parish Clerk and RFO