TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS PARISH COUNCIL

Audit of accounts for the year ended 31.3.2025

Explanation of variances

Variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except for variances of less than £200).

Section 2	2023/2024 £	2024/2025 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variances
Box 2 Precept	10,800	15,000	4,200	38.8	See below
Box 3 Total other receipts	1,826	1,637	-189	-10.35	No explanation required
Box 4 Staff costs	3,693	4,140	447	12.1	No explanation required
Box 5 Loan interest/capital repayments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Box 6 All other payments	9,386	11,019	1,633	17.39	See below
Box 9 Total fixed assets and long term investments and assets	58,341	58,512	171	0.29	No explanation required
Box 10 Total borrowings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<u>Explanation for high reserves</u>

The Parish Council has set aside a reserve of £2,000 for routine tree works in the playing field and woodland.

It is also still awaiting a decision on a long term insurance claim against the Parish Council for subsidence of the adjoining Village Hall, which is not in the Parish Council's ownership. A number of oak trees owned by the Parish Council are implicated in the subsidence and will either have to be felled or a root barrier installed. The Council has therefore set aside funds for this work. The claim has been ongoing for six years but no end seems to be in sight, and at present no figures are available for the Parish Council's liability once the claim is settled.

The Parish Council has also set aside some funds for the refurbishment of the play area. Some equipment needs replacing and a new iron fence put around the play area.

Box 2 – Precept

The precept was increased to allow for repair works for the car park and driveway and to allow for the refurbishment of the play area – renewal of and repairs to equipment and the provision of a new fence around the play area. Due to the ongoing insurance claim regarding the subsidence of the Village Hall and the possible involvement of the Council's oak trees it was felt necessary to maintain reserves for this work, the amount for which is not yet known.

Box 6 – All other payments

Grounds maintenance	-£340.38	23/24 included payment for Q4 22/23
Play area inspection	£24.90	24/25 new provider (ROSPA) and fee increase
Play area, field works and repairs	£2,140	24/25 Repair works carried out qq2erto play area equipment and fence
Playing field signage	-£47.56	24/25 no signage purchased
Subscriptions	£17.11	Nominal rise in fees
Insurance	£113.48	Rise in premium, premium tax and admin fees
General administration	£30.76	24/25 Microsoft subscription renewal paid
Hire of Village Hall for meetings	-£30	24/25 Some PC meetings not held
Election costs	-£127.15	24/25 no elections held
Trucam/dog fouling patrols	£62.46	24/25 increase in fees over year
Dog waste bins/bags	£32.95	24/25 more bags purchased due to high usage
PC website costs	£13.00	Nominal increase in annual domain fees
IT costs and office equipment	-£730.83	23/24 new laptop purchased and fees paid to resolve lockout issues
Benches	-£1,031.77	24/25 no benches purchased
Tree works (other than that connected to insurance claim	£410	24/25 some tree works carried out
Insurance claim	£712.50	24/25 bat survey required for insurance claim
VAT paid	£383.62	Reflects Council's expenditure for 24/25
Total	**£1,633.09**	