

**Long Melford Parish Council**

**Explanation of variances arising from 2022/23 Annual Return**

**2022/23 Annual Return: Section 2 – The Statement of Accounts**

Box No		31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	Variance	Variance %	Explain
1	Balances brought forward	325,270	238,263			
2	Annual Precept	145,000	151,080	6,080	4.19%	
3	Total other receipts	93,257	169,615	76,358	81.88%	<b>Yes</b>
4	Staff costs	77,316	86,133	8,817	11.40%	
5	Loan interest/Capital repayments	0	0	0		
6	Total other payments	247,948	154,621	-93,327	-37.64%	<b>Yes</b>
7	Balances carried forward	238,263	318,204			<b>Yes</b>
8	Total cash and investments	238,047	309,337			
9	Total fixed assets	313,012	326,618	13,606	4.35%	
10	Total borrowings	0	0	0		

**Box 3: Explanation of Total other receipts variances**

Total other receipts	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	Annual Return variance	Annual Return % variance	Explain
Community Infrastructure Levy	0	107,882	107,882		3.1
Grants received	29,837	2,500	-27,337	-91.62%	3.2
Burial income	35,348	39,185	3,837	10.85%	
Cleansing grant	4,170	4,446	276	6.62%	
Recycling income	986	1,056	70	7.10%	
Donations	22,341	12,573	-9,768	-43.72%	3.3
Interest	575	1,971	1,396	242.78%	3.4
Other income	0	2	2		
<b>Total other payments</b>	<b>93,257</b>	<b>169,615</b>	<b>76,358</b>	<b>81.88%</b>	

3.1 Community Infrastructure Levy		
2021/22	£0	No CIL monies were received
2022/23	£107,882	CIL receipts principally from a major residential development in the parish

<b>3.2 Grants received</b>		
2021/22	£29,837	£22,000 - grant for community car park £2,037 - precept compensation grant £2,500 - Melford in Bloom capital grant £2,300 – locality grants £1,000 – bike tour grant
2022/23	£2,500	£1,500 – locality grants £1,000 – neighbourhood plan grant

<b>3.3 Donations</b>		
2021/22	£22,340	£8,337 – donation towards repair work to Upper Green £4,360 – Old School car park donations £3,408 – Country Park car park donations £2,200 – neighbourhood plan donation £1,565 - Melford in Bloom donation £809 – Toddler play area donation £992 – bench donations £500 – walk leaflet donations £169 – other donations
2022/23	£12,573	£5,754 – Old School car park donations £4,669 – Country Park car park donations £2,150 - Melford in Bloom donation

<b>3.4 Interest</b>		
2021/22	£575	£360 – Nationwide Building Society £215 – Suffolk Building Society
2022/23	£1,971	£1,412 – Nationwide Building Society £559 – Suffolk Building Society

#### **Box 6: Explanation of Total other payment variances**

<b>Total other payments</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>	<b>Annual Return variance</b>	<b>Annual Return % variance</b>	<b>Explanation at paragraph</b>
Other employment related costs	935	879	-56	-5.99%	
Office administration	15,930	17,486	1,556	9.77%	
Burial services	4,971	4,924	-47	-0.95%	
Street lighting	79,209	9,116	-70,093	-88.49%	6.1
Country Park LNR	19,644	15,607	-4,037	-20.55%	6.2
Public toilets	12,209	13,145	936	7.67%	
Public places	88,982	62,013	-26,969	-30.31%	6.3
Grants	3,330	8,852	5,522	165.83%	6.4
Events	17,928	12,152	-5,776	-32.22%	6.5
Projects	4,810	10,447	5,637	117.19%	6.6
<b>Total other payments</b>	<b>247,948</b>	<b>154,621</b>	<b>-93,327</b>	<b>-37.64%</b>	

<b>6.1 Street lighting</b>		
2021/22	£79,209	£5,136 - street light maintenance and energy costs. £74,073 - cost of phase 3 (final) installation of new lighting
2022/23	£9,166	£9,166 - street light maintenance and energy costs – increased energy costs have resulted in much higher charges

<b>6.2 Country Park Local Nature Reserve</b>		
2021/22	£19,644	£1,644 – water / electricity £6,600 – Ranger service – full year of new contract £10,170 – Operating costs £1,230 – Tree surgery
2022/23	£15,607	£1,431 – water / electricity – much reduced water costs due to long term closure of toilets pending sewerage repairs £2,750 – Ranger service – contract expired mid-year – work now covered by volunteers £10,795 – Operating costs £631 – Tree surgery

<b>6.3 Public Places</b>		
2021/22	£88,982	£0 – notice board maintenance £779 – repairs and maintenance £1 – bus shelter rental £1,822 - dog and litter bin emptying (incl new bin purchases) £201 – community volunteers £59,612 – Old School car park maintenance – complete upgrade of community car park £2,483 – Melford walk – signage, path/ditch maintenance £656 – promotion of local walking routes £17,053 – Maintenance work to Upper Green – new initiative £4,103 – new community seating £2,272 – new Community Warden contract £0 – War memorial repairs £0 – tree surveys (other than at Country Park)
2022/23	£62,013	£195 – notice board maintenance £791 – repairs and maintenance £1 – bus shelter rental £2,032 - dog and litter bin emptying (incl new bin purchases) £0 – community volunteers £8,483 – Old School car park maintenance £1,765 – Melford walk – signage, path/ditch maintenance £0 – promotion of local walking routes £21,645 – Maintenance work to Upper Green – completion of major works £754 – new community seating £2,335 – Community Warden contract £8,435 – War memorial repairs £14,253 – tree surveys (other than at Country Park) £1,324 - Biodiversity initiatives

<b>6.4 Grants</b>		
2021/22	£3,330	£3,300 – Neighbourhood Plan expenditure £30 – Community grant
2022/23	£8,852	£1,751 – Neighbourhood Plan expenditure £7,101 – Community grants

<b>6.5 Events</b>		
2021/22	£17,928	£2,681 – Community Christmas tree and street lighting £434 – Remembrance Sunday £12,908 – Melford in Bloom initiative- includes new barrel planters (£3,478) £1,905 – Community events supported by the Council
2022/23	£12,152	£2,270 – Community Christmas tree and street lighting £622 – Remembrance Sunday – smaller event due to Covid £9,080 – Melford in Bloom initiative £180 – Community events

<b>6.6 Projects</b>		
2021/22	£4,810	£1,590 - purchase and fitting of new community defibrillators £3,220 – purchase of new vehicle activated signage
2022/23	£10,447	£282 - purchase and fitting of new community defibrillators £10,165 – purchase of new vehicle activated signage

#### **Box 7: Explanation of 'high' reserve balances carried forward**

As can be seen from the table below, the General Fund of £157,362.64 compares favourably with the parish precept of £151,080 and is not excessive.

<b>Earmarked reserves</b>	
Unallocated CIL	30,382.16
2023 Election Fund	2,000.00
War Memorial Repair Fund	3,565.00
Defibrillator Fund	1,485.51
Old School car park	1,110.10
Cemetery Expansion Fund	30,000.00
Highway Improvement Fund	7,500.00
Country Park Development	60,000.00
Melford in Bloom Fund	2,441.49
Toddler Play Area Development	22,356.90
	<b>160,841.16</b>
<b>General reserve</b>	<b>157,362.64</b>
<b>Total reserves (must agree to Box 7)</b>	<b>318,203.80</b>