

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL - Explanation of Significant Year on Year Variances in the Accounting Statements

	2022/23	2023/24	Variance	REASON
INCOME Box 3 - Total Other Receipts	37,558.00	92,199.22	54,641.22	
Maidstone Borough Council Parish Services Grant	13,256.00	13,671.36	415.36	Increase in MBC Parish Services grant.
MBC Grants	-	525.00	525.00	Grant received towards a new parish noticeboard.
MBC S106/CIL Funds	11,832.27	61,329.66	49,497.39	There was a large increase in CIL payments, totalling £51,700.29 up from £11,832.27 in 2023, due to a number of new developments in the village and a S106 payment of £9,629.37 was received towards new outdoor gym equipment purchased for Surrenden Field.
KCC Grants	6,000.00	0.00	- 6,000.00	No grants were applied for or received from KCC.
Other Income	103.00	80.00	- 23.00	No income of £23 rec'd from Community Events Group for premises licence.
Other Grants & Donations	4,504.00	10,204.00	5,700.00	Increase due to grants from KCPA of £500 towards new outdoor gym equipment at Surrenden Field, Groundworks UK £8,654 towards a review and update of the NDP, Bridge Club £170 and Men's Shed £160. No income was received from a resident or the former trustees of the Youth Club totalling £3,784.
Deposit a/c bank interest	1,862.73	6,389.20	4,526.47	Significant Increase in bank interest received due to increased funds in the bank and higher interest rates.
	<u>37,558.00</u>	<u>92,199.22</u>	<u>54,641.22</u>	

	2022/23	2023/24	Variance	REASON
Expenditure Box 6 - All Other Payments	91,748.70	161,136.64	69,387.94	
General Administration	30,687.24	29,051.42	-1,635.82	Internal Auditors fees reduced by £725 as the RFO had returned to work & support was not required, there was no road traffic survey £380, two way radio purchases £396 nor advertising costs £280. Stationery costs reduced by £160 following a change in supplier, photocopier costs reduced by £177 as less colour printing took place, the Village Update printing costs reduced by £437 as only three editions were published, there were four the previous year and office sundries reduced by £23. There was an increase in office electricity costs amounting to £440, Councillor training £356, and meeting room hire as a number of EGM's took place £148.
Office Equipment	842.42	0	-842.42	No new equipment was purchased.
Donations (WI, CAB, CCDA, KSSAA, Samaritans, Involve Kent, Kenward Trust, RBL, Hospice, Victim Support)	1,901.12	16,800.00	14,898.88	A one off donation of £15,000 paid from CIL funds to the Village Golf and Sport Club to build a new toilet block, Staplehurst Emergency Help Team £1,000 towards start-up costs and the Scouts £200. A decrease in donations to All Saints PCC magazine £75, CAB £200, Hospice £250, Involve Kent £75.00, Kenward Trust £100, RBL £100, KSSAA £50, Samaritans £100, Victim Support £50 and Volunteer Awards £301.12.
Street lighting, furniture, repairs, trees, planters, CCTV & caretaker	9,185.73	16,131.22	6,945.49	The purchase of street furniture increased by £3,059.73 for a new parish noticeboard, road closed sign, defibrillator accessories and rock salt. Street light maintenance increased by £1,750 for the installation of 5x LED lanterns and repairs reduced by £139, energy costs increased by £229.53. Street Furniture repairs reduced by £33.22, and equipment for the Caretaker increased by £281.52 for black sacks and clothing. New CCTV equipment was installed £3,110.28 and the annual maintenance fee was waived by the previous contractor £1,580.90. The maintenance of planters and purchase of shrubs and trees increased by £267.65.
Playscheme	1,951.00	1,690.77	-260.23	Minor reduction in Playplace costs due to an increase in the number of children attending.
Jubilee Sports Field & Skatepark Maintenance	4,095.28	14,305.64	10,210.36	There were increases due to a survey on the pavilion £825, an increase in maintenance repairs £463.67, mowing costs went up £500, the annual inspection increased by £5, the skatepark was painted and repaired £8,552.37, there were no skatepark costs in 2022/23, and a skatepark event £800 took place. No litter bins were purchased, a reduction of £465.40 and the mower was not serviced £470.28 in 22/23.
Youth Club (Maintenance of site, KCC Lease/Purchase & Youth Leader)	11,378.44	16,572.28	5,193.84	Maintenance of the site increased by £5,461.28. This was due to the installation of a disability ramp and carrying out a building, FRA and EICR survey. A reduction of £267.44 in equipment purchased for the youth club attendees.
Surrenden Playing Field Maintenance & CCTV	9,586.02	21,492.15	11,906.13	An increase due to the purchase of outdoor adult gym equipment £15,911.54, playground markings £1,105, a beacon £668.10 and the installation of benches and bins purchased in 22/23 totalling £995.00. A reduction of £4,009.92 as no bins or benches were purchased, there were no equipment repairs totalling £1,190 or licences £116, and due to the weather landscape maintenance reduced in total by £1,134.66. Pavilion utility costs and repairs reduced by £320.93.
Churchyard maintenance	1,678.44	6,841.67	5,163.23	An increase in maintenance funding due to tree work being carried out. However, little grass cutting took place and many complaints were received. A new contractor has been appointed by the PCC.
Christmas Lights	1,983.99	3,485.51	1,501.52	Reduction in energy costs of £55.77 as only one yr to pay and a reduction in the purchase of new solar lights £83.85. An increase due to load bearing test on street lights £1,260, motif installation costs £375.64 and an increase in the licence fee of £5.
Professional Consultant Fees	3,890.00	11,159.37	7,269.37	A reduction in HR advice of £452.50 and no VAT advice £2,900. An increase of £1,819.40 due to solicitors fees for the transfer of leases for allotments and Jubilee Field to the Parish Council and consultant fees to update the NDP of £8,802.47.
Public Convenience maintenance	10,438.21	12,420.49	1,982.28	Increase due to replacement lighting installed £763.94, cleaning/opening/sundries costs 2,043.07 and electricity prices £96.84. A reduction in general repairs £404.20 and in water bills £517.37 owing to part of the village being without for more than 24 hours a refund of £500 to our water account means we have not been charged for any water in 2023/24.
Projects	0	6,002.04	6,002.04	Residents Housing Survey printing & postage costs £551.40, design of a Parish Council logo £300 and £5,150.64 on a residents survey, engagement of a bid consultant, pre-planning and VAT advice relating to the proposed installation of a 3G pitch.

Wimpey Field Maintenance (Mowing, strimming)	4,130.81	5,094.08	963.27
Third Party Expenditure (Memory Cafe)	0.00	90.00	90.00
	<u>91,748.70</u>	<u>161,136.64</u>	<u>69,387.94</u>

Increased mowing and strimming of £475, from £725 to £1,200, and in water bills £70.63, from £56.29 to £126.92. MVCP Management and events increased by £1,184.50 due to an additional event £350 and an increase in surveys of £834.50, installation of a litter bin £275.00 and removal of wildlife cameras £31.66. A reduction of £511.94 for a new litter bin, wildlife camera accessories £323.67, signage £35 and timber sleepers £202.91.

Community Warden made a payment to a Memory Café group in the village..

No purchase took place of new CCTV amounting to £13,308.63 and no purchase of street waste bins amounting to £2,666.86 or litter picking equipment totalling £1,751. There was a reduction in expenditure of £3,084.44 by the Greener Group planting less plants and trees and an increase in energy costs of £298.22 and an increase in the Caretakers equipment of £114.94.

Box 7 - Balances carried forward

Balances earmarked for specific purposes

Allotments	4,000.00
Surrenden Playing Field Pavilion	26,500.00
Wimpey Field	1,000.00
Jubilee Field	15,000.00
Greener Staplehurst Group litter equipment	200.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan	1,000.00
Youth Club activities & equipment	1,399.26
Youth Club Building	<u>12,485.10</u>
	<u><u>61,584.36</u></u>

Box 9 - Total Fixed Assets	731,867.00	749,965.00	18,098.00
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Increase due to the purchase of outdoor adult gym equipment and a replacement parish noticeboard.