

Clerk's Financial Report January 2023

Bank balances at 31/12/2023

Unity trust Current Account	£27,179.39
Unity Trust Savings Account	£65,383.02
Total balances	£92,562.41
Credits – newsletter advertising	July £ 50 August £150
Other Credits received	Bank interest: September £98.41 December £211.23
Payments made under S137*	See report below for payments made under this power during this audit year

RESERVES	BALANCE '£'	NET AMOUNT SPENT YTD '£'
Small Projects	£8995 Earmarked: £400 School Lane footpath re-planting, £66.50 maintenance of garden under village sign, Anchor cover for Little Hamlet £68, K Trevitt memorial £700, Legal fees to extend Green Lane footpath £1000) Total earmarks £2,234.50	£5738
Legal	£11,500	£0
Jubilee	0 – this reserve is now closed.	£1048
Youth Project	£938	£0
General	£10,563 (£10,000 trf to legal reserve)	£0
Allotments	-£60 (funds requested to pay for rent)	£60
Asset maintenance	£ 9,674	£0
Asset acquisition	£13,040 (Earmarked : Community Speed Watch £500)	£2,120
Icepits Wood	£11,682	£0
S106 Funds	£14,676	£0
Total reserves	£81007	£8966

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory expenditure, on purposes for the direct benefit of its area, or part of its area, or all or some of its inhabitants.

The council is the body to determine whether or not such benefit will accrue, and a decision by the council could only be challenged on the ground that it was wholly unreasonable. The use of “some” in relation to the inhabitants means that the council cannot use the power to benefit a single individual. The council must ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. This means that a council should not spend a disproportionately large amount on something which has no or very little direct benefit. All payments made under S137 must be authorised by a resolution. A separate account must be kept of expenditure made under this power.

Payments made under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 are capped at £8.41 per electorate for the audit year 2022-2023. The electorate for Gt Barton is approximately 1700, giving a limit of approximately £14,297.

S137 payments made in audit year 2022-2023:

Date	Item	Details	Invoice total	VAT	Net amount
25/4/22	St Edmundsbury Newstalk	Donation to the talking newspaper	£50	£0	£50
25/4/22	Printkick*	Queens Jubilee Mugs	£937.20	£156.20	£781
16/5/22	P Fisk	Jubilee Tree	£77.92	£12.99	£64.93
20/6/22	Criterion Ices	Ice creams for Jubilee celebrations	£215.92	£35.99	£179.93
20/6/22	Various items for the Jubilee Celebrations *	Coffee morning; Breakfast etc	£803.57	£0	£803.57
22/7/22	Elan City	Vehicle Activated Speed Sign	£2975.90	£495.98	£2479.92
26/9/22	Elan City	Locking bolt for Speed Sign	£42.44	£7.07	£35.37
12/12/22	Elan City	Vehicle Activated Speed Sign & accessories	£2544.10	£424.02	£2120.08
16/1/23	The Bunbury Arms	Christmas lunch for elderly & vulnerable residents	£237.50	£39.08	£198.42
	Total net payments made under S137				£6713.22

* Funds were received to help towards the Jubilee Celebrations so they do not come out of the Council’s budget, however they are still recorded under the LGA S137 as the power to pay.

Miscellaneous financial and procedural matters:

1. The Locum Clerk will invoice the Allotment Association for the cost of the rent.
2. The Locum Clerk will update the asset register and advise the insurance company of any new items purchased.
3. M Dunn will contact SALC with regard to paying the tax for the previous Clerk.
4. M Dunn/D Clarke will provide the Locum Clerk with a copy of the insurance policy.
5. M Dunn will remove the previous Clerk's access to the bank account (viewing only).
6. M Dunn will check that the forwarding instruction on infogbpc@gmail.com has been removed.
7. M Dunn will confirm that the email account Gtbartonpc@gmail.com has been closed.
8. West Suffolk Council have confirmed receipt of the precept request for 2023-24.