

WHPC Meeting 1st September 2026

26/227 Finance Working Group: Financial Report @ 31st July 2026

This paper is a short report on the financial position of WHPC at the end of **1st Quarter 2026-2027**. The report is based on actual income/expenditure to date at the time of review (31st July 2026) and known committed expenditure.

The Finance Working Group met on 17th August 2026 to review the accounts for the council year to date. Cllrs were satisfied that (a) the monthly reconciliations were complete and accurate and (b) the accounts software was up to date and the entries verified as correct. The Working Group then reviewed (a) actual receipts/payments against budget and (b) balance of reserves. Cllrs were satisfied that the appropriate controls were in place on invoices, payments and bank transfers.

The paper summarises the group's findings and recommendations.

1. Summary

	2026-27 Full Year Budget	Year to Date Apr-Jun %age	
Income	£59,336.52	£31,661.79	53%
Payments	£62,226.00	£13,033.81	21%
Reserves	£97,052.72	£2,122.25	

No concerns have been identified. Key points of 1st Quarter financials are summarised below.

2. Income

WHPC received payments totalling £31,661.79 during Apr-Jun 2026. As expected, this included the 1st half precept, £28,437.50 and £2,462.52 remaining s278 security deposit refunded to WHPC by Devon County Council following the adoption of the WHPC works on West Hill Road.

WHPC also received a grant of £660.63 from Devon Communities Resilience Forum as contribution towards the purchase of two-way radios to be used by the Village Responders in an emergency situation.

Income Received Apr-Jun 2026(£)

1 st half year Precept payment	28,437.50
Grants Received	660.63
Interest received	102.14
S278 Security Bond Refund	<u>2,461.52</u>
	£31,661.79

3. Payments

During Apr-Jun 2026 WHPC made payments of £13,033.81 against the 2026-27 budget. Overall, planned expenditure was slightly below budget, however during Apr-Jun WHPC resolved to make additional unplanned expenditure funded from contingency funds:

- Two-way Radios (£730.22 +vat) Emergency Plan Working Group (£660.63 of this funded by grant monies received)
- Publicity – WHPC branded flags for use on public occasions.(£364.95+vat)

	2026-27 <u>Full Year Budget</u>	Year to Date <u>Apr-Jun</u>	<u>%age</u>
<u>Payments Apr-Jun 2026(£)</u>			
Staff Costs	32,500.00	7,368.08	23%
Operational Expenses	14,826.00	3,586.61	24%
Playpark	2,350.00	510.00	22%
Public Spaces	7,050.00	473.95	7%
WHPC Grant Awards/ provisions	3,000.00	-	0%
Contingency	2,500.00	1,095.17	44%
	£62,226.00	£13,033.81	21%

Looking ahead

- a. It is likely that WHPC will incur additional External Audit Fees as a challenge has been submitted. At the time of writing it is not known if the challenge is eligible or will be investigated. In previous years the Council has incurred additional costs of approximately £1,000 to £1,5000.
- b. Legal Fees – see Reserves.

4. Earmarked Reserves

The Neighbourhood Plan Project was the only project to incur costs during Apr-Jun 2026, £2,122.25. These relate to specialist consultants appointed to support the development of Design Codes for West Hill. Final payment was made in July and the Working Group plan to conduct a community consultation on the draft Design Codes during Autumn 2026.

<u>Earmarked Reserves (£)</u>	<u>@ 01.Apr.26</u>	<u>@ 31.07.26</u>
Replacement Playpark Equipment	12,741.00	12,741.00
Open Spaces	12,000.00	12,000.00
CIL Monies	1,167.38	1,167.38
Neighbourhood Plan Project	12,107.64	9,985.39
Election Expenses By-Election	6,000.00	6,000.00
Contingency	9,705.00	9,705.00
Road Safety Projects	13,331.41	13,331.41
Total	£67,052.43	£64,930.18

Looking ahead:

- a. The Neighbourhood Plan WG may require specialist consultancy support as the project continues.
- b. The Playpark Working are seeking to install new equipment in the playpark following a community consultation scheduled for Autumn 2026. Subject to Parish Council approval this will be funded from s106 monies and earmarked reserves.
- c. WHPC has established a budget of £5,000.00 Min for possible legal fees in relation to a Solicitor's letter requesting Voluntary Pre-Action Disclosure Min 26/176. Should these costs arise, they will be funded from Contingency Reserves held (£9,705.00).
- d. There are no current projects that will draw on other reserves.

5. Assets

During April 2026, Devon County Council (DCC) confirmed the adoption of the works on West Hill Road carried out by WHPC under a s278 agreement in conjunction with the creation of the new

entrance to the Village Hall site. The assets (£6,918.97) were transferred to DCC and are recorded on the WHPC assets register as a disposed asset (value £1.00).

6. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to accept this report.

Finance Working Group
17th August 2026