

# LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL

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## **EXPLANATION OF VARIANCES 2023-24** **(Please also see attached Accounting Statement)**

**Box 3 Receipts** were much lower, primarily because the VAT reclaim in 2022-23 for the previous year (2021-2022) was £7,800 rather than just £1,300 in this accounting year. The very high VAT reclaim in 21-22 was due to the high expenditure of the major upgrade of the village playground in the summer of 2021.

**Box 4 Staff costs** rose significantly after the PC resolved to increase the Clerk/RFO's salary by 4.5% annually to try to mitigate the large rise in the cost of living. The Clerk's hours were also increased from 30 hours per month to 35 hours per month to reflect her workload which has increased over the past few years.

**Box 6 Other payments** There are various factors for this rise:

- expenditure of the village hall varies from year to year; in 2022-23 the PC was not required to spend anything on the hall but in the past year there have been various issues such as boiler repairs and an infestation of glis glis which needed urgent work (Total: £6,734.48)
- the PC felt it appropriate to mark the coronation of King Charles III with the purchase of special commemorative mugs for all the children in the parish (£632.80)
- there was the cost of the 4-yearly local elections (£200)
- there was an increase in CIL expenditure which was used for items such as benches, spring bulbs and the purchase of equipment for the newly-formed Speedwatch group to try to combat speeding through Postcombe village (Total: £1,696.23)

*Barbara Drysdale*

(Clerk and RFO)  
Lewknor Parish Council

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024