

Treasurer's Report to Barningham Annual Parish Meeting, May 21st, 2025

1. The annual income comprises the precept of £1600 plus £226 LCTS grant, both from Durham County Council, £103.32 from the Bull Acre rent and a grant of £400 from Cllr. George Richardson towards replacement of the defibrillator cabinet.
2. Expenditure comprises the items listed. We hope Sue Bainbridge, who recently conducted the CPR training, can arrange an advantageous price for the cabinet. The total cost, with electrical installation, is likely to be in the region of £500.
3. Spending has been within expected parameters and we have a surplus of £1043, giving a healthy £2152.07 to carry forward into 2025/26. This includes the £400 grant in 1., above.
4. We are responsible for hosting the Barninghamvillage.co.uk website. The Parish Meeting has a legal requirement to publish its accounting data on a website. PAC, the company Jon Smith used to set up the website, did not respond to our written request to transfer the account after Jon's death. PAC subsequently charged Jon's account, which his estate challenged, leading to a refund. PAC then finally contacted us about overdue accounts and I paid these from my own account and reclaimed the cash. We are now in control the website
5. We prefer to pay bills by cheque as this allows the security of having two officers approve the transaction and sign the cheque. However, there are occasions when it is expedient or more convenient to make a direct payment in this way and reclaim from the Parish account. There will always be an audit trail for these transactions.
6. While the title to the Village Green is held by the Barningham Estate, it has been practice for more than 20 years for the Parish Meeting to pay the costs of mowing. Last year's bill compared well with the charges of £850 in 2022/3 and £800 in 2023/24. The cost is dependent on the number of cuts and on the cost of fuel and equipment. Current costs are close to £100 per cut, which is the price we were paying per cut in 2005, using Mac Plant from Richmond.

Internal Audit has been conducted by Graeme Leigh of Cherry Blossom Cottage. I am grateful to Graeme for his help with this. He has signed off the accounts and the audit file is available for inspection tonight and for some weeks. Key documents will be posted on the website (www.Barninghamvillage.co.uk).

External Audit We complied with the simplified Audit procedure and have had no response, beyond confirmation of receipt of documents, from the audit company.

I ask the meeting to approve

1. **the audited accounts for 2024/25 and Certificate of Exemption**
2. **the Risk Register and the Annual Governance Statement**
(copy of each available at the meeting)

Phil Hunt, Treasurer, May 21st 2025