

**Blackbird Leys Parish Council**  
**Statement of Variance for the Year Ending 31 March 2025**

Receipts and Payments Account		
Yr 2023-24	Receipts	Yr 2024-25
<b>£54,389</b>	<b>Precept</b>	<b>£54,389</b>
	There was no increase in the precept request for 2023-24	
<b>£34,043</b>	<b>CIL</b>	<b>£13,107</b>
	There were two payments of CIL fund money	
<b>£6,963</b>	<b>Other Income</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
£250.00	Oxford City Council Events Grant	£0.00
£60.00	Leys Fete Raffle	£0.00
£297.00	Leys Fete Income	£0.00
£212.00	Meet Santa Income	£0.00
£6,144.49	Vat Return	£0.00
£0.00	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	£10,000.00
<b>£41,006.00</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£77,496</b>

Yr 2023-24	Payments	Yr 2024-25
<b>£29,163</b>	<b>Staff Costs, Chairman's Allowance, HMRC &amp; Pension.</b>	<b>£30,580</b>
£18,482.72	The clerks' working hours are 25 hours per week.	£18,705.68
£5,809.37	Payments to the HMRC were made.	£6,201.60
£4,871.17	The Clerk Pension was paid	£5,672.41
<b>£0</b>	<b>Working From Home Allowance</b>	<b>£216</b>
	The Clerk is entitled to claim a working from home allowance at a rate of £24 per month to cover electricity, heating and other costs incurred from having the office at their home.	
<b>£951.70</b>	<b>Hall Hire</b>	<b>£802.50</b>
	Due to the community centre being rebuilt the parish council has had to find a new venue to hold its meetings.	
£164.20	Cost to hire the Jack Agent room.	£0.00
£787.50	Cost to hire the Bowls Club.	£0.00
£0.00	Cost to hire the Leys Leisure Centre	£802.50
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hall Hire Variance - Increase £149.20 (19%)</b>  <i>Due to the community centre being rebuilt, the parish council required alternative meeting venues. The Bowls Club was initially used, but clashes with match nights where alcohol was served violated our standing orders, necessitating relocation to alcohol-free venues at higher cost.</i></p>		
<b>£764.96</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>£769.54</b>
	This is the annual cost for insurance there were no claims and we remained with our current provider.	
<b>£2,268.68</b>	<b>Memberships</b>	<b>£2,248.58</b>
	<b>Oxford Association of Local Councils</b>	
£2,175.68	Provide essential support and guidance for the parish council and run training sessions at a reduced rate for members.	£2,248.58
£111.00	<b>SLCC Annual Membership</b> SLCC membership cost	£0.00
	This is the annual cost for the Society of Local Council Clerk, they provide essential resource and advice for the clerk on all topics to do with the parish council.	
<b>£40.00</b>	<b>Information Commissioner Fee</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
	It is a statutory requirement to obtain this certificate annually.	

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<b>£753.00</b>	<b>Audit Fee</b>	<b>£673.00</b>
£375.00	We receive an invoice from our internal auditor with a late submission charge due to a staffing issue.	£295.00
£378.00	We received an annual invoice from our external auditor.	£378.00
<b>£57.30</b>	<b>Printing Costs</b>	<b>£19.50</b>
	The new printer is more cost effective.	
£57.30	The clerks printer cost with the new printer	£19.50
<b>Printing Costs Variance - Decrease £37.80 (66%)</b> <i>The purchase of a new, more cost-effective printer resulted in significantly reduced printing expenses.</i>		
<b>£154.64</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>£149.94</b>
£0.00	Up front initial cost of the mobile phone handset billed March	
£154.64	The annual cost of the mobile phone contract	£149.54
<b>£60.50</b>	<b>Stationery</b>	<b>£104.56</b>
£60.50	Stationery for the clerk	£49.57
£0.00	New for the chair to support with maintaining the noticeboards	£54.99
<b>Printing &amp; Stationery Variance - Increase £13.36 (22%)</b> <i>Stationery costs increased due to the purchase of a new printer and paper supplies. Current year includes new printer purchase (£54.99) and paper (£18.87). The new printer will deliver ongoing future savings .</i>		
<b>£1,034.00</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>£246.00</b>
	There are more councillors attending training in 2023-24 year than the previous year.	
£528.00	The parish council resolved that all councillors should attend the 'Roles and Responsibilities' course as a baseline. As most of the councillors had received this training last year there was less of a cost this year.	£132.00
£110.00	A councillor has enrolled to do their Certificate in Town Planning.	£0.00
£396.00	Councillors on the planning committee attended planning training.	£0.00
£0.00	Communicating with your community	£42.00
£0.00	Training - Leading Your Council	£72.00
<b>Training Variance - Decrease £788.00 (76%)</b> <i>Training costs decreased significantly as most baseline training was completed in the previous year and does not require annual renewal</i>		
<b>£799.48</b>	<b>Email Addresses</b>	<b>£877.48</b>
0	The renewal of the .GOV email address was paid.	£78.00
£799.48	The cost of 12 parish council email addresses from June 2023- June 2024 at a cost of £55. per mail box.	£799.48
<b>£328.80</b>	<b>CIL Fund</b>	<b>£230.40</b>
£136.80	Annual cost for the website host account with Wix, without the discount	£230.40
£192.00	A defibrillator battery was purchased	£0.00
<b>CIL Fund Variance - Decrease £98.40 (30%)</b> <i>CIL fund expenditure decreased as defibrillator battery replacement was not required this year, despite website hosting costs increasing to the full annual rate.</i>		

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<b>£199.00</b>	<b>Subscriptions</b>	<b>£749.00</b>
£199.00	Purchase of business Dropbox to storage documents.	£199.00
£0.00	Parish Online	£480.00
£0.00	The Power of Neighbourhood Planning	£45.00
£0.00	Oxford NHP Alliance	£25.00
<b>Subscriptions Variance - Increase £550.00 (276%)</b> <i>Subscription costs increased significantly due to adding Parish Online mapping service and neighbourhood planning resources for the Neighbourhood Plan development to the existing Dropbox storage subscription.</i>		
<b>£2,137.78</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	The parish council co hosted 2 events in 2023-24, the Leys Festival the summer 2023, and also a Meet Santa in December 2023 for the children on the estate.	
	The parish council held 4 events this year a Jubilee party, Leys Fete, Meet Santa and a cost of living day.	
<b>Events Variance - Decrease £2,137.78 (100%)</b> <i>The parish council did not host any events in 2024-25, compared to co-hosting two events in the previous year (Leys Festival and Meet Santa).</i>		
<b>£6,750.00</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>£11,778.80</b>
£4,250.00	It was resolved to cease paying large grants awards 30th May 2023 (FC031/23), the second instalment of the large grants already awarded was paid.	£750.00
£2,500.00	A small grant awarding scheme for up to £500 was set-up. This is open all year round and paid in one instalment, with an evaluation report required at the end of the project to be eligible to reapply, this is hoped to encourage smaller projects.	£2,440.00
£0.00	Returning the Neighbourhood Plan funding	£8,588.80
<b>Grants Variance - Increase £5,028.80 (74%)</b> <i>The parish council introduced a new small grants scheme with a maximum award of £500 to support more local community projects, while also providing a substantial community centre rebuilding grant . The council also returned Neighbourhood Plan funding (£8,588.80) as this substantial project required more time to establish a proper delivery framework. This approach allows the council to help more groups across the community while supporting major infrastructure development and ensuring thorough project planning.</i>		
<b>£108.00</b>	<b>Bank Charges</b>	<b>£107.40</b>
£72.00	Service charge	£71.40
£36.00	There is a £3 per month fee for the multi card.	£36.00
<b>£86.03</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>£92.07</b>
£53.98	Screens were purchases as a partition for parish council meetings.	£0.00
£17.75	Light refreshments for the Annual meeting	£92.07
£14.30	Light refereshments for the Christmas meeting.	£0.00
<b>£7,620.00</b>	<b>Planning Consultant</b>	<b>£1,801.20</b>
	The parish council appointed an independent consultant to review the regeneration planning application and advise what was in the communities best interest.	
£3,600.00	4 days @£750 + vat for advice on the Blackbird Leys District Centre planning application	£0.00
£1,860.00	2 days @£750 + vat for advice on the Blackbird Leys District Centre planning application	£0.00
£1,380.00	1.5 days @ £750 for advice on the Blackbird Leys District Centre planning application	£0.00

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£780.00	1 day @ £650 + vat per day for drafting representations on Oxford Local Plan 2040	£0.00
£0.00	2 days @ £578 + vat per day for first scoping session for the Neighbourhood Plan	£1,411.20
£0.00	To draft a representation for the community on the community centre planning application.	£390.00
<b>Planning Consultant Variance - Decrease £5,818.80 (76%)</b> <i>The parish council used planning consultants for only two projects this year: neighbourhood plan scoping and community centre application response. This reduced need reflects completion of most regeneration planning work in the previous year.</i>		
<b>£149.40</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<b>£198.20</b>
£36.40	Travel to Witney for Planning Training	£0.00
£44.80	Travel to Garsington PC for a meeting	£0.00
£23.40	The clerk claimed mileage to attend additional meetings	£140.40
£0.00	Transport for councillors to training	£57.80
<b>Travel Variance - Increase £48.80 (33%)</b> <i>Travel expenses increased due to additional meetings and training requirements. The parish council continued with planning committee and introduced a neighbourhood plan working group, requiring extra clerk travel. A group training session in Witney necessitated taxi hire for councillors without transport, ensuring all members could attend essential training.</i>		
<b>£24,236.47</b>		<b>£21,099.17</b>
<b>Supporting Statement to the Receipt and Payment Account for the Year Ending 31 March 2025</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£52,464	Bank Account Balance 1 April 2025	£94,459
£95,395	Total Receipts	£77,496
£53,400	Total Payments	£51,679
<b>£94,459</b>	<b>Total Holdings</b>	<b>£120,277</b>
<b>CIL Fund</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£34,042.92	Total CIL Income	£13,106.82
£192.00	Total Expenditure	£230.40
£51,119.00	Balance	£63,995.16
<b>Reserves</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£5,990	3 months running costs.	£5,990
<b>Available Funds</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£94,459	Unity Trust Bank Account Balance 1 April 2025	£120,277
£2,133.11	Less Unpresented cheques 2024-25	£288.76
£51,119.00	Less CIL Fund	£63,995.16
£5,989.87	Less Reserves	£5,990
<b>£35,219</b>	<b>Total Available to Spend</b>	<b>£50,003</b>

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<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
<b>£318.51</b>	Additional Laptop purchased 11/12/2010	<b>£318.51</b>
<b>£1,912.76</b>	Large Printer/Copier purchased 29/03/2011	<b>£1,912.76</b>
<b>£3,316.20</b>	2 x Defibrillators and cases purchased 27/10/2015	<b>£3,316.20</b>
<b>£4,200.00</b>	3 x Memorial Garden Benches purchase 31/01/2016	<b>£4,200.00</b>
<b>£228.00</b>	12 x Dog Fouling signs purchased 28/06/2016	<b>£228.00</b>
<b>£100.00</b>	20 x 'Keep Britain Tidy' Dog Fouling signs 13/12/2016	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>£1,260.00</b>	3 Litter Bins purchased 13/12/2016	<b>£1,260.00</b>
<b>£10.00</b>	Hi - Visibility Jackets purchased 28/03/2017	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>£104.45</b>	Sundries & Colouring Comp purchased 25/07/2017	<b>£104.45</b>
<b>£174.00</b>	Board of Ideas purchased 05/12/2017	<b>£174.00</b>
<b>£378.00</b>	Clerk Laptop purchased 11/05/2018	<b>£378.00</b>
<b>£205.93</b>	Gazebo purchased 31/07/2019	<b>£205.93</b>
<b>£2,936.27</b>	3 x Noticeboards 26/04/2019	<b>£2,936.27</b>
<b>£229.97</b>	Epson Workforce printer, scanner & copier 26/01/2021	<b>£229.97</b>
<b>£369.00</b>	Clerk Laptop purchased 28/04/2022	<b>£369.00</b>
<b>£138.99</b>	A copy of Arnold Baker 13th Edition	<b>£138.99</b>
<b>£145.00</b>	Mobile phone handset	<b>£145.00</b>
<b>£115.00</b>	Office desk	<b>£115.00</b>
<b>£192.00</b>	Defibrillator battery	<b>£192.00</b>
<b>£16,334.08</b>	<b>Total Asset Value</b>	<b>£16,334.08</b>
<b>Borrowing</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£0.00	The Parish Council does not have any borrowings.	£0.00
<b>Leases</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£0.00	The Parish Council does not have any leases.	£0.00
<b>Tenancies</b>		
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>		<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£0.00	The Parish Council does not have any tenancies	£0.00
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>	<b>LGA (1972) S137 Grants</b>	<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
£9.93	Allowance per elector	£10.81
13,000	Number electors	13,000
£129,090.00	Total amount available	£140,530.00
<b>Yr 2023-24</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Yr 2024-25</b>
<b>£2,500.00</b>	Agnes Smith Advice Centre	<b>£500.00</b>
<b>£1,725.00</b>	Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground	<b>£1,250.00</b>
<b>£500.00</b>	Dovecote	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>£0.00</b>	Oxford Play Association	<b>£500.00</b>
<b>£500.00</b>	Oxford Hub	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>£500.00</b>	Syrian	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>£500.00</b>	Proud to be me	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>£500.00</b>	Bowls Club	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>£0.00</b>	Afrobeats	<b>£440.00</b>
<b>£0.00</b>	Strawberry Majorettes	<b>£500.00</b>
<b>£6,725.00</b>		<b>£3,190.00</b>

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<b>Signed:</b>	N Webb
	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24/06/2025

<b>Signed:</b>	E Kearney
	<b>Responsible Financial Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24/06/2025