Hinton St George Parish Council

1st Quarter Report: April - June 2026
Prepared by RFO

1st Quarter Overview

Achievements included the move to a new website which enables the clerk to update website content directly, speeding up the turnaround time and creating more opportunities to promote local events and businesses. The new website and the new clerk email address ensures that the Council is Assertion 10 compliant and this was achieved at a much lower price than originally quoted.

There were no concerns or recommendations raised in the internal audit. The external audit is currently still in progress.

A great disappointment was the replacement of the heritage post box with a new solar-powered parcel solution. The Council received no prior consultation about the proposed change and despite fighting hard to stop this, the change went ahead regardless.

Although coming very close to having a final draft Conservation Area Appraisal which can be shared with the public, there have been several delays outside of the Council's control and this is not yet finalised.

Planning Report

The following planning applications were reviewed in the first quarter:

26/00494/FUL - Hinton St George Pre School, West Street
The Council objected to the installation of a 2.5m high black railings fence, noting concerns about the impact on the Grade 1 listed church views which are noted in the conservation appraisal. A subsequent amendment was submitted to install a 1.8m high sand colour railings fence, which was approved by the Council.

26/00509/S73 - Building Off Gas Lane
The Council approved a S73 application to vary conditions to allow installation of a woodburner and associated flue and pv panels

26/01185/HOU at Blackmoor Cottage, Abbey Street
The Council approved an application to render over existing reconstructed stone.

26/00994/TPO - Land At Hinton House, West Street
The Council approved an application to remove 1 tree under the1973 Tree Preservation Order, as it was causing significant damage to the boundary wall of the church.

General Report

The Parish Clerk's appointment to the role was confirmed by all Councillors following the completion of the probation period. It was agreed that the Clerk be granted an additional 30 minutes per week to attend to website content, which was not previously included in the role.

Financial Report

Income

In 2026-27, Somerset Council moved to paying precepts in two instalments, rather than all upfront. The first payment was received, with the second payment due at the end of the 2nd quarter.

The VAT reclaim for 2025-26 was submitted in two sections - one by the former Clerk before their departure and the other at the end of the financial year. To date only the second submission has been refunded so the first claim amounting to £676.04 has now been resubmitted.

	Budget 2026/27	**Projected 2026/27**	**YTD Actual**
Precept	£33,360.00	£33,360.00	£16,680.00
VAT reclaim estimate	£200.00	£820.32	£148.98
Interest estimate	£40.00		£10.42
Donations	£0.00		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**£58,464.05**		**£16,839.40**
Carry forward / reserves	£24,864.05		

Expenditure

The Chapter 8 equipment purchase was approved in the previous financial year but delayed due to the Lengthsman being unable to work for a period of time. At the time of purchase, some costs had increased which has resulted in a slight overspend of the Infrastructure line item.

We made good savings against the budget amount for the website and insurance, by changing suppliers in both instances. The original budget for the PCC grass-cutting was reduced by the Parish Council at the start of the financial year. The external audit was not budgeted for, as we were previously under the income threshold for this.

All other costs remain in line with the budget at the end of the first quarter.

		Budget 2026/27	Projected 2026/27	YTD Actual
PAYMENTS				
Infrastructure / maintenance costs		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£66.77
	Chapter 8 equipment			£1,311.41
	Lengthsman	£8,500.00	£11,262.55	£2,656.50
Staff Costs		£5,700.00	£5,220.00	
	Salary, PAYE			£1,789.55
	Clerk and Councillor training	£500.00	£245.00	£45.00
Insurance		£1,750.00	£1,750.00	£1,180.17
Audit and Professional membership		£500.00	£606.16	
	Information Commissioner			£52.00
	Internal Audit			£94.50
	External Audit			
	SALC membership			£209.66
Legal fees		£500.00	£500.00	
Misc including room hire and printing		£900.00	£900.00	
	Village Hall hire			£189.00
	Conservation App printing			
	Stationery & general printing			£77.79
Subscriptions eg. Norton		£600.00	£130.00	£129.98
S137 Grants / Community Support				
	Parochial Church Council (grass cutting)	£2,275.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
	Poppy Appeal	£75.00	£75.00	
	Hinton Hound printing (budgeted under Misc)			
	Grants:	£300.00	£300.00	
	* Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance			£150.00
	* Citizens Advice Somerset			£100.00
Defibrillator- running costs and parts		£2,500.00	£1,359.00	
	Monthly electricity costs			£41.78
	Replacement pads			£78.00
	Replacement batteries			
Pelota Wall		£0.00	£0.00	
Lighting (incl project)		£1,500.00	£1,500.00	
Gritting		£0.00	£0.00	

Election fees	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	
Conservation Area Appraisal	£500.00	£500.00	
Website and gov.uk email	£3,500.00	£300.00	£300.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**£33,600.00**	**£30,147.71**	**£9,972.11**

The Clerk presented a reconciliation on the Conservation Area Appraisal costs, confirming that the original fee agreed with Kevin Morris for £5,500 (for 42 hours of work) was still outstanding and would only be invoiced on completion of the work (at the supplier's request). Payments made to date were primarily printing costs and room hire for the initial consultations, amounting to £850 (paid). Estimated expenses for printing the final document is around £300, bringing the total budget to around £6,900, of which £6,050 is still to be paid.

The Clerk confirmed that no reserve had previously been set aside for this, with the intention being to pay this from the carry-forward amounts. Budgets had been approved as follows: £6,500 (2024-25); £1,000 (2025-26) and £500 (2026-27).

Bank Reconciliation and Reserves

Bank Accounts as of 7 July 2026	
Current Account	£29,570.43
Pelota Wall Account	£419.40
Reserves	£3,247.41

The carry forward amount from 2025-26 was £24,864.05 however this was not transferred into the reserves account. A portion of this will be required to cover the Conservation Area Appraisal cost (approximately £5,500).

In order to maximum interest earned, it is recommended that £10,000 be transferred to the Reserves account. It is proposed that the Councillor appointed to undertake quarterly checks (still to be appointed) be consulted on this before further action is taken.

Schedule of Payments over £500

Approved	**Name**	**Description**	**Amount**
20 April 2026	PCC of Hinton St George	St George's Church Grass Cutting	£1,000.00
18 May 2026	H Graham (Parish Clerk)	Reimbursement of Chapter 8 Supplies	£1,112.73
18 May 2026	Zurich Municipal	Insurance - annual premium	£1,180.17
15 June 2026	Home & Garden Services	Lengthsman duties	£1,339.97