WVA Trustees' Financial Report for the year to 31st March 2026

Introduction

The Westcott Village Association continues to prepare annual accounts based on cash receipts and cash payments made in the period. This year, to ensure greater clarity, receipts and costs for individual activities are shown in detail either within the Receipts section or the Payments section depending on whether the net result is cash received or cash paid.

Two payments totalling £400.76, for insurance £255.31 and meeting costs £145.45 respectively, were made after the year end but were both related to 25/26 activity. Therefore, to improve understanding, the costs are included in these accounts, and the year-end bank balance reduced by £400.76, to £7247.38.

In addition, a Statement of Assets is also provided. Note there are no Liabilities. As at the end of March 2026, in addition to the cash balance of £7,247 the WVA were responsible for assets originally costing £8,673.

Comments on 2025/26 activity:

In summary during the year, total net receipts were £3,173.46 and total net payments were £ 8,216.07, giving a net reduction of cash of £ 5,042.61. Pertinent comment and explanation is provided on receipts and payments as follows:

Donations from residents fell by 21% from year to year with about half of this reduction because one resident reduced their ongoing monthly donation. Gift Aid has been claimed where possible and this year has been recovered on a higher proportion of donations.

Net receipts from the two WestFest fund raising activities – that is the summer bottle tombola table and the WESTfestivity Christmas table – were £851.03, £100 more than last year. This reflects the time, effort and energy put in to these events by the Committee. Thanks are due to generous residents for the items they donated. Do note however, that spend on 'bought in' items for the tables increased by about £280 compared to last year.

As in previous years, the WVA has underwritten the costs to procure and coordinated the activity to display a Christmas Tree on the Village Green. The costs of the Tree are noted later in this report. Following a very well attended evening of carol singing around the Christmas Tree, a donation of £255 was made to Crisis at Christmas from monies collected – about the same as last year. We will look at ways to reduce costs by encouraging residents to bring their own cups next year rather than the WVA buying disposable cups.

Bank interest received halved in the year due to lower average cash balances and a softening of deposit account interest rates.

The most significant item in the accounts is the total payment of £6,493.76 in direct support of the work by the Westcott Village Forum to update the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan, covering the period 2026 to 2039. As noted at the 2025 WVA AGM, and recorded in the minutes of that meeting, Central Government had just withdrawn grants previously available to fund NDP activity. The Draft 2025 AGM Minutes noted 'that the cost of updating the WNDP (estimated at the time at £6k) will now fall solely to the WVA and will not be recoverable – at least not in the current circumstances.' And so it proved. The £6k estimated requirement being £0.5k light.

The biggest proportion of the £6.5k cost was committed for engaging professional advice from a consultant with relevant experience. This consultant was one of several that were asked to tender for the works expected to be needed. Following an interview with the Westcott Village Forum Chairman Tim Way, the

WVF Policy Lead James Leaver and Paul Goddard representing the WVA, and the agreement by the WVA Committee of a detailed Engagement Letter and Contract, the consultant was engaged. His input to the Project has been effective and worthwhile. Without his input, the process would have been much more difficult as volunteer resource of the right calibre and experience was not available. The consultant cost was £4.6k and this cost was subject to rigorous review and sign off before payment. The remaining £1.9k was spent on the costs of the surveys, marketing materials and banners, printing and stationery – all necessary to communicate and demonstrate to interested parties that a thorough process has been undertaken. No more costs are expected in 2026/27 though this is not certain as the Final Draft Plan is still subject to review and consultation.

Other costs - agreed and recorded in Committee Meeting minutes - and expended directly for charitable activity were:

- £200 contribution to the costs of staging the Westcott Music Mingle at Holy Trinity Church. Other Westcott organisations also contributed and the event was attended by some 130 people and judged generally as a great success
- £75 contribution towards the costs for a post card competition at All Saints School
- New batteries and new pads costing £455.89 for the two Defibrillators in Westcott sponsored by the WVA and so well looked after by a small team of Volunteers
- net cost of £143.20 for the Christmas Tree and some decorations Once again, the WVA is grateful to both the Westcott Gardeners Club and Westcott 100 for their financial contributions

Total Support Activity costs in 25/26 were £812.22, being £264.75 lower than last year.

The WVA continues to operate a policy to maintain cash reserves at a level of between approximately one and four years of annual receipts, whilst taking account of the future needs of the village. The WVA has been compliant with this reserves policy since the point at which funds were transferred to it in 2019 by the predecessor WVA organisation.

Commitments in 2026/27: As at the date of this report, the WVA Committee is not aware of any significant commitment to which its resources need to be applied. An up-to-date assessment will be confirmed at the AGM. In addition at the AGM a general discussion will be promoted on the likely / possible impact on the WVA of the election of a Parish Council in May 2027. It should be noted that the Constitution is specific on the topic of the dissolution of the WVA and the application / distribution of any cash funds held if that happens. Note this distribution would apply to both cash reserves *and* the assets for which the WVA has responsibility

Public benefit statement: The Trustees are of the opinion that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Prepared by and Agreed by WVA Trustees 15 June 2026

Paul Goddard 15/6/26

Secretary – WVA

Magesh Ramakrishnan 15 JUN 26

Treasurer – WVA

WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the financial report of the Westcott Village Association for the year ended 31 March 2026 which is set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) of the 2011 Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirements: a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act. have not been met, or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hugh Parry
Mill Way House, Westcott, Surrey RH4 3LB
15 June 2026

WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2026

		year ended 31/3/26	year ended 31/3/26	year ended 31/3/25	year ended 31/3/25
RECEIPTS		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Subscriptions and donations			1,790.00		2,276.71
WESTfest income			1,539.46		1,152.60
Xmas Carols			375.29		351.49
Gift Aid			408.76		444.56
Xmas tree contributions			250.00		250.00
Sundry income (Bank Interest)			123.67		226.24
			4,487.18		**4,701.60**
PAYMENTS					
Charitable Activities					
Westcott Village Hall				3,000.00	
WESTfest costs		20.00		15.00	
WESTfestivity costs		668.43		387.24	
Defibrillator		455.89		33.54	
Xmas tree and lights etc		513.49		350.00	
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)		36.00			
WNDP		6,493.76			
Westcott Church (Music)		200.00		351.49	
Carol donation to CRISIS		255.00			
Community Fridge		75.00			
		8,717.57		**4,137.27**	
Support Activities					
Website maintenance etc		288.00		288.00	
Insurance				303.10	
Hire of meeting rooms/refreshments etc		120.45		477.57	
Sundry costs		3.01		8.30	
		411.46		**1,076.97**	
Total payments			**9,129.03**		**5,214.24**
Net receipts/(payments)			**(4,641.85)**		**(512.64)**
Opening balances	Virgin Money	12,128.32		11,562.66	
	Paypal	161.67		1,239.97	
			12,289.99		2,802.63
Closing cash balances	Virgin Money	7,416.48		12,128.32	
	Paypal	231.66		161.67	
			7,648.14		**12,289.99**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2026

	31/03/2026 £	31/03/2026 £	31/03/2025 £	31/03/2025 £
Cash Assets				
- Bank - Virgin Money	7,416.48		12,128.32	
- Bank - Paypal	231.66		161.67	
Total Current Assets		**7,648.14**		**£ 12,289.99**

Other assets > £500 - date acquired and cost at that date	**Date acquired**	**Cost (£)**	**Cost (£)**
Notice board (delivered May 2022)	2022	2,318.11	2,318.11
Defibrillator (The Burrell)	2021	1,675.00	1,675.00
Defibrillator locked cabinet (The Burrell)	2023	1,398.00	1,398.00
Defibrillator (Nisa Store) - approx value of gift	2015	1,400.00	1,400.00
Christmas lighting	2020	1,331.99	1,331.99
Speed gun	2020	549.00	549.00
Phone box	2020	1.00	1.00
		8,673.10	**8,673.10**
Net Assets		**16,321.24**	**20,963.09**

Financial Review for the Period

The WVA prepares its annual accounts in the form of a Receipts and Payments Account with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

During the Period, the WVA had total receipts of £4,487 less total payments of £ 9,129, a net outflow of £ 4,642. FY 2025/26 Donations of £ 1,790 was much lower, being 21 % lower than the previous year, in which they were themselves 7% higher than those received in the year to March 2024 – this shows the impact of the lack of door-to-door collections and other factors. Nevertheless, the WESTfest bottle tombola and the WESTfestivity Christmas table were successful with Xmas WestFestivity doing much better than WesrFest tombola.

Capital expenses of £ 6,494 incurred were for Westcott Neighbourhood development plan (WDNP) involving external consultant support, marketing and printing material etc.,