

# MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL



## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

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# MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

2025/2026

## COUNCIL INFORMATION

The following schedule sets out details of Members of the Council during the year ended 31 March 2026.

**Mayor:** Cllr M Birks (appointed 14/05/25)

**Deputy Mayor:** Cllr J Leibrandt (appointed 14/05/25)

### Members of the Council 2025/26

Cllr S Austin	Cllr L Lowton
Cllr Birks	Cllr J Leibrandt
Cllr C Bovey	Cllr J Maclusky
Cllr A Cherry	Cllr R McLaverty-Head
Cllr H Clements (Elected Jan 2026)	Cllr D Mead
Cllr I Dawson	Cllr K Newbigging
Cllr C Fletcher	Cllr N Wankling (Co-opted Apr 2025)
Cllr E Green	Cllr D Ward (Co-opted Sep 2025)
Cllr J Green (resigned Oct 2025)	Cllr D Watkins
Cllr C Hooper	Cllr W Whittaker (Co-opted Sep 2025)
Cllr M Jones	

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

**2025/2026**

**COUNCIL INFORMATION**

**Accounts Prepared by**

Linda Blake ACMA CGMA CPFA

**Internal Auditor**

Duncan Edwards – DKE Audit Services

**External Auditor**

PFK Littlejohn LLP

## MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

#### EXPLANATORY FOREWORD

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 state that a Council with gross income and/or gross expenditure over £200,000 but less than £12 million per annum is subject to an Intermediate Level Review by the External Auditor and must complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3.

As a smaller authority, Malvern Town Council is required by law to:

- a) Complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3. This comprises:
  - Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26, page 3 which is completed by the Council's Internal Auditor, Duncan Edwards.
  - Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2025/26, page 4
  - Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26, page 5
  - Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2025/26, page 6Sections 1 and 2 must be completed and approved by the authority.
- b) To prepare Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in the form required by proper practice.
- c) Certify the Accounting Statements.
- d) Consider and approve the Internal Audit work which has been carried out during the year and ensure the Internal Auditor completes page 3 of the AGAR.
- e) Review the effectiveness of the Council's system of Internal Control and prepare the Annual Governance Statement.
- f) Consider the findings of the Council's review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control.
- g) At a meeting of Full Council, sign and approve the AGAR Sections 1 and 2. At the meeting where these are approved, the Council must in the following order:
  - Approve Section 1 of the AGAR, the Annual Governance Statement.
  - Ensure that the Annual Governance Statement is signed by the Chair and Clerk at the meeting at which the approval is given.
  - Consider the Accounting Statements.
  - Approve Section 2 of the AGAR, the Accounting Statements by Resolution.
  - Ensure the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which the approval is given.
- h) Make arrangements for the exercise of public rights and publish on a public website the approved sections of the AGAR and the completed notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return along with its accompanying notes, the day before the statutory 30-day period for the public to inspect the accounts begins.

- i) Ensure arrangements are in place for the exercise of public rights with an inspection period of 30 working days. The period for local government electors to inspect, object and question will be Monday 29 June until Friday 7 August 2026.
- j) Submit the approved and signed AGAR along with the list of items required for an intermediate level review to the External Auditor no later than Wednesday 1 July 2026.
- k) Publish or display the certified Governance and Accountability Return by 30 September 2026, including the signed external auditor report.

The Town Council still publishes its own format of accounts in addition to the AGAR. These accounts are in line with the format of the quarterly accounts subject to Year End Financial Reporting adjustments and allow councillors to see more detail in the Council’s Year End Accounting Statements.

Council approved a simplified format for its statement of accounts in April 2010 and Malvern Town Council’s financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 are set out in the following pages.

**Summary Budget / Actual Comparison for the Year**

This compares current year income and expenditure with the previous year and also with the current year’s budget. Explanations of the major variances are explained within the accounts.

**The Income and Expenditure Account**

This illustrates the Council’s revenue account, covering income and expenditure and allocating them across the departmental headings. Movements on the general fund are detailed at the bottom of the Consolidated Revenue Account in order to reconcile the net surplus or deficit from expenditure against services to the Council’s spending against council tax raised, taking into account the use of reserves built up in the past and contributions to funds and reserves.

**The Balance Sheet**

This sets out the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2026 i.e. its assets and liabilities at that date. Local authorities are required to include capital reserves on their balance sheet which are used to account for the financing of fixed assets. These reserves do not have equivalents in other sectors.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

These include supporting notes on:

Fixed Assets	Stocks, Debtors and Cash in Hand and at Bank
Creditors	Borrowings
Movements in Reserves	Earmarked and Special Reserves
Staffing Structure	Section 137 Expenditure
Publicity	

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS**

**SUMMARY BUDGET / ACTUAL COMPARISON FOR THE YEAR 2025/26**

	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Actual	2024/25 Actual
<b><u>Gross Income</u></b>			
Rental Income	25,360	23,188	8,605
Other Administration / Event related	3,400	9,047	4,900
Allotments	5,988	6,430	6,039
Cemetery	74,409	99,379	66,988
Grounds Maintenance	10,750	3,238	26,398
Leisure and Recreation	9,999	194,223	9,263
Loan Income	-	-	310,000
Interest Receivable	17,000	13,683	14,241
Deferred Grants *	-	8,893	8,893
	<u>146,906</u>	<u>358,081</u>	<u>455,327</u>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>			
Paycost	272,628	268,834	242,815
Utilities	13,400	15,108	3,668
Rates	10,000	7,111	8,646
Maintenance of Buildings	15,570	15,778	13,762
Rental Cost	-	-	10,646
Communication Costs	10,830	10,678	17,828
Insurance	21,500	21,863	21,032
Professional and Consultancy Fees	25,850	49,242	23,543
IT Expenses	13,500	13,842	14,559
Leasing	1,296	1,295	1,293
Depreciation *	-	48,209	48,009
Miscellaneous	15,750	16,239	23,737
	<u>400,324</u>	<u>468,199</u>	<u>429,538</u>
<b><u>Operations</u></b>			
Paycost	315,214	330,242	287,648
Utilities	11,731	16,382	11,707
Rates	7,212	10,754	9,703
Maintenance of Buildings	3,036	2,039	2,696
Communication Costs	1,350	2,717	2,039
Maintenance of Grounds	33,485	30,863	20,691
Equipment and Vehicle Running Costs	15,700	19,490	15,930
Depreciation *	-	77,862	81,579
Miscellaneous	2,260	2,184	1,713
	<u>389,988</u>	<u>492,533</u>	<u>433,706</u>
<b><u>Discretionary Costs</u></b>			
Grants, Donations and Community Projects	41,400	39,540	41,866
Events	48,086	48,792	46,192
Depreciation *	-	(3,501)	2,750
	<u>89,486</u>	<u>84,831</u>	<u>90,808</u>

\* These items are not currently included within the budget, but form part of the year end financial reporting adjustments.

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS**

**SUMMARY BUDGET / ACTUAL COMPARISON FOR THE YEAR 2025/26**

	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Actual	2024/25 Actual
<b><u>Asset Renewal and Refurbishment</u></b>			
Litter Bins		-	3,080
Skatepark Project at Victoria Park	204,000	-	-
New Pump Track at Adam Lee	-	-	17,199
Improvement of Play Area at Adam Lee	-	-	-
New Toddler Area in Victoria Park Play Area	-	-	-
Childrens Fitness Equipment Victoria Park Play	-	3,731	15,520
Transfer of Money to Reserves - Victoria Park Play Area	40,000	40,000	2,574
Landscaping and Associated Works - Community Hub	8,000	11,128	-
New Lighting Project Victoria Park	-	1,924	-
Adam Lee Car Park and Fencing	-	5,900	-
Refurbishment of Ground Floor Cemetery Lodge and Toilets	6,000	-	-
Works to investigate land slippage	-	7,150	4,540
John Deere Tractor	22,000	-	-
Replacement Vehicle	-	-	-
Electric Bike	-	-	-
Contingency Fund	20,000	-	25,562
<b><u>Special Expenditure</u></b>			
Early Retirement Costs	9,250	9,231	9,068
Loan Repayments	22,476	16,124	22,476
Special Expenditure Total	<u>331,726</u>	<u>95,188</u>	<u>100,019</u>
Gross Expenditure Total	<u>1,211,524</u>	<u>1,140,751</u>	<u>1,054,071</u>
Net Cost of Services	<u>1,064,618</u>	<u>782,670</u>	<u>598,744</u>
Add Movements to Reserves	25,000	196,315	55,000
Less Movements from Reserves	(222,000)	(72,378)	(65,119)
Reversal of Depreciation	-	(122,569)	(132,338)
Reversal of Deferred Contributions	-	8,893	8,893
Capital Financed from Revenue	-	32,594	8,405
Removal of Loan Income	-	-	310,000
Adjusted Net Expenditure for the Year	<u>867,618</u>	<u>825,525</u>	<u>783,585</u>
Precept on the District Council	867,850	867,850	828,500
<b>(Surplus) / Deficit for the year</b>	<b><u>(232)</u></b>	<b><u>(42,325)</u></b>	<b><u>(44,915)</u></b>

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS**

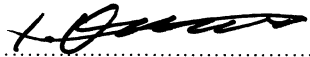
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

	2026			2025
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>Gross expend- iture £</b>	<b>Gross income £</b>	<b>Net expend- iture £</b>	<b>Net expend- iture £</b>
Cemetery	128,602	99,379	29,223	58,550
Allotments	20,416	6,430	13,986	11,648
Maintenance of other Town Council grounds	170,333	3,238	167,095	105,464
Leisure and recreation services	205,171	194,223	10,948	155,827
Miscellaneous services	38,874	-	38,874	36,374
Other services provided to the public	147,024	7,598	139,426	141,430
Administration - Corporate and democratic support	331,017	24,637	306,380	339,452
Administration - Professional support	66,126	-	66,126	41,267
Grants to local bodies	39,540	-	39,540	41,866
 <b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	 <b><u>1,147,103</u></b>	 <b><u>335,505</u></b>	 <b><u>811,598</u></b>	 <b><u>931,878</u></b>
Interest, deferred grants, loan and investment income			(28,928)	(333,134)
<b>NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>			<b><u>782,670</u></b>	<b><u>598,744</u></b>
<b>Precept on District Council</b>			(867,850)	(828,500)
<b>(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b><u>(85,180)</u></b>	<b><u>(229,756)</u></b>
<u>Reconciliation of Items for Movement on General Fund</u>				
Removal of depreciation and deferred contributions to avoid impact on precept			(113,676)	(123,445)
Movement on Earmarked Reserves			123,937	(10,119)
Capital Financed from Revenue			32,594	8,405
Removal of Loan Income			-	310,000
Surplus for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 after movements on General Fund			<b><u>(42,325)</u></b>	<b><u>(44,915)</u></b>

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2026**

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>1</b>		
Operational assets			
Land and buildings		1,688,784	1,721,588
Plant, vehicles and equipment		139,160	89,576
Infrastructure		-	-
Non-operational assets		-	-
		<u>1,827,944</u>	<u>1,811,164</u>
Long Term Investments	<b>2</b>	66,484	66,484
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	<b>3</b>	-	-
VAT recoverable		10,294	5,781
Debtors	<b>4</b>	9,432	11,228
Payments in advance		8,957	10,643
Cash in hand and at bank	<b>5</b>	636,032	546,081
		<u>664,715</u>	<u>573,733</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	<b>6</b>	(82,729)	(75,797)
Receipts in advance		(5,597)	(5,387)
Short term borrowing	<b>7</b>	-	-
		<u>(88,326)</u>	<u>(81,184)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		2,470,817	2,370,197
<b>LONG TERM BORROWING</b>	<b>7</b>	(300,594)	(306,946)
<b>DEFERRED GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		(68,999)	(77,892)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<u>2,101,225</u>	<u>1,985,360</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Fixed asset restatement account	<b>8</b>	919,461	919,461
Capital financing account	<b>8</b>	23,691	74,088
Earmarked and special reserves	<b>9</b>	378,331	254,394
Balance on income and expenditure account		779,742	737,417
		<u>2,101,225</u>	<u>1,985,360</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Council on 17 June 2026 and signed on its behalf:

  
 .....  
 Town Mayor

  
 .....  
 Town Clerk

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. FIXED ASSETS

1.1 Movements in fixed assets

Cost	Operational	Vehicles,	Infra-	Totals	
	property	plant &	structure	2026	2025
	£	machinery	£	£	£
At 1 April 2025	1,978,501	748,667	8,608	2,735,775	2,435,796
Additions	85,995	106,760	-	192,755	325,979
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	(44,565)	(53,800)	-	(98,365)	(26,000)
At 31 March 2026	<u>2,019,931</u>	<u>801,626</u>	<u>8,608</u>	<u>2,830,165</u>	<u>2,735,775</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2025	256,913	659,091	8,608	924,612	818,273
Charge in year	89,089	33,481	-	122,569	132,339
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on disposals / revaluation	(14,855)	(30,105)	-	(44,960)	(26,000)
At 31 March 2026	<u>331,147</u>	<u>662,466</u>	<u>8,608</u>	<u>1,002,221</u>	<u>924,612</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>					
At 31 March 2026	<u>1,688,784</u>	<u>139,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,827,944</u>	<u>1,811,164</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,721,588</u>	<u>89,576</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,811,164</u>	<u>1,617,523</u>

1.2. Valuation of fixed assets

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain requires that all assets are re-valued at least once every five years.

The Council's Operational Properties were valued as at 1 April 2021 by the Valuation Agency. These properties therefore next become due for valuation on 1 April 2026.

1.3. Note on Rose Bank Gardens

The Council began a 99 year lease of Rose Bank Gardens on 15 February 2012. CIPFA SORP states that Community Assets should be included at their historical cost which is nil as the gardens were gifted to Malvern Hills District Council (the lessor) and are being leased on a peppercorn rent. Therefore a nil value has been assumed. Following a land slippage within the gardens the Town Council have sought contractors to carry out remedial works, but costs have been higher than anticipated. This is recognised by the Council as a possible liability for the Financial Year 2026/27.

2. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

2026 2025

Long term investments represent the funds held by the Council in a Local Authorities Property Fund.

Local Authorities Property Fund	66,484	66,484
	<u>66,484</u>	<u>66,484</u>

3. STOCKS

The Council has resolved that stocks with a value of less than £2,500 are not material to the accounts. There is, accordingly, no stock shown in the balance sheet.

4. DEBTORS

An analysis of debtors is as follows:

	2026	2025
Interest receivable on investments and bank accounts	1,470	1,575
Sundry debtors	7,962	9,653
	<u>9,432</u>	<u>11,228</u>

5. CASH IN HAND AND AT BANK

2026 2025

Current Account	407,504	317,177
Public Sector Deposit Account	228,516	228,516
Petty Cash	12	388
	<u>636,032</u>	<u>546,081</u>

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

<b>6. CREDITORS</b>		<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
An analysis of creditors is as follows:			
HM Revenue & Customs		15,839	11,863
Creditors		44,688	35,751
Accruals		22,202	28,183
		<u>82,729</u>	<u>75,797</u>

**7. BORROWINGS** On 9 April 2024, the Town Council drew down a PWLB Loan of £310,000 at a rate of 5.280% over taken over a period of 25 years.

**7.1 Borrowing analysis**

Balance at 1 April 2025	306,946	310,000
Loan principal repaid during the year	(6,352)	3,054
Balance at 31 March 2026	<u>300,594</u>	<u>306,946</u>

All loans are annuity loans from the Public Works Loans Board

**8. STATEMENT OF TOTAL MOVEMENT IN RESERVES**

	Capital accounts		Revenue reserves		Totals	
	Fixed asset restatement	Capital financing	General	Earmarked and special	2026	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 April 2025	(919,461)	(74,088)	(737,417)	(254,394)	(1,985,360)	(2,052,101)
Net (surplus)/deficit for year	-	-	(42,325)	-	(42,325)	(44,915)
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation / Impairment	-	(42,120)	-	-	(42,120)	-
Release of retentions	-	8,893	-	-	8,893	8,973
Movements on EM reserves	-	-	-	(123,937)	(123,937)	10,119
Net depreciation of fixed assets	-	122,569	-	-	122,569	123,445
Financing of fixed assets	-	(32,594)	-	-	(32,594)	(8,405)
Loan Repayments	-	(6,352)	-	-	(6,352)	(22,476)
Balance at 31 March 2026	<u>(919,461)</u>	<u>(23,691)</u>	<u>(779,742)</u>	<u>(378,331)</u>	<u>(2,101,225)</u>	<u>(1,985,360)</u>

**9. EARMARKED AND SPECIAL RESERVES**

The Council has adopted, as a key element of its financial strategy, a policy of developing reserve funds against future known or anticipated commitments. The policy includes a recognition of the need to maintain assets in a fit and proper condition such that their value, both operational and financial, will remain the same over time.

The reserves also include two perpetuity funds: that is funds where the capital amount is required to be maintained intact and invested with the income generated being applied for maintenance purposes. In one case, the fund is in respect of a section 106 payment from Malvern Hills District Council.

A Vehicle and Machinery Reserve also exists to smooth the impact of the purchase of these larger items against the annual precept. Funds are built up annually and then released only when Vehicles and or Machinery are required.

A further reserve was created in the 2022/23 financial year with funds received alongside the transfer of land at Adam Lea being set aside for future maintenance.

Funds have been put into a Play Area Reserve in 2025/26 to build funds for the refurbishment of Victoria Park Play Area.

Details of movements on individual reserves are set out below:

Name of Reserve	Year ended 31 March 2026			
	Balance as at 31 March 2025	Addition to reserves	Contributions from reserves	Balance as at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£
Elections	7,411	10,000	(7,411)	10,000
Cemetery extension	16,659	-	-	16,659
Asset Repair and Development Reserve	35,935	6,000	(23,500)	18,435
Vehicle and Machinery Replacement Fund	51,938	25,000	(22,000)	54,938
Play Area Reserve	-	150,000	-	150,000
Capital Receipts Reserve	6,500	-	-	6,500
CIL Reserve - Brookfarm Drive	19,467	5,315	(19,467)	5,315
Premium for Land at Mill Lane	50,000	-	-	50,000
Graves perpetuity	5,284	-	-	5,284
Townsend Way - s106 perpetuity	61,200	-	-	61,200
	<u>254,394</u>	<u>196,315</u>	<u>(72,378)</u>	<u>378,331</u>

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL 2025/26 ACCOUNTS**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

**10. STAFFING STRUCTURE**

The Council's approved and actual establishment at the year end was:

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
Operations management	1.0	1.0
Operations Staff	8.0	8.0
Total Operations Staff	9.0	9.0
Administrative and Corporate support	4.5	4.5
Town Clerk	1.0	1.0
Total numbers:	14.5	14.5
Full time equivalents	14.5	14.5

**11 SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE**

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) enables the Council to spend, in any single year, up to a specified product per head for each registered elector in Malvern Town, on activities and projects which are not authorised specifically by any other statute. All such expenditure must be declared by the Council to be for the benefit of all or some of the inhabitants of the Town.

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
Annual product per head	11.10	10.81
Number of registered electors	22,864	22,864
Maximum permissible amount under section 137	253,790	247,160
Expenditure during the year comprised the following:		
Remembrance Observation	418	61
Other grants and donations	20,120	23,460
Citizen's Advice Bureau Grant	19,000	18,000
Twinning Grant	1,500	-
	41,038	41,521

**12. PUBLICITY**

The Local Government Act 1986 requires the Council to disclose expenditure on publicity. Gross expenditure on publicity and advertising during the year was as follows:

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
Public consultation	-	-
Council Newsletter	4,703	3,389
Statutory and public notices	244	-
Availability of grants	420	366
Events Publicity	168	545
Display Boards	-	85
Advertisement of Community Hub	250	436
Employment Vacancies	-	20
	5,785	7,576

# MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR VARIANCES - FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26

A Summary of the major points contributing to the variance of actual from budget for the YEAR, is as follows:

*Comments have been made where variances are greater than 10% of the budgeted amount*

### INCOME - surplus income is shown in brackets

#### **Rental Income**

Income from the Park View Meeting room has been steadily increasing throughout the year and is above budget for the year as a whole, but monies received from the recharge of utilities and from the PV panels electricity generation has been lower than anticipated in the budget and linked to the lower than expected electricity usage. 2,822

#### **Other Administration Income / Event Related**

A grant has been received towards the cost of new Christmas Lights for Priory Walk. This was not anticipated in the original budget but offset costs in full. (5,140)

#### **Cemetery Income**

Cemetery income for 2025/26 has been nearly £100,000 which is £25,000 more than expected. There were a very high number of bookings particularly in the final quarter of the year, prior to the cemetery charges being increased on 1 April 2026. (24,970)

#### **Grounds Maintenance Income**

During the year, income was received from the sale of three vehicles. There was a profit made on two of these when sold, Mitsubishi Van and the John Deere Mower (approximately £12,500) but unfortunately a loss was made on the Corvus Electric Truck (approximately £16,000) as it was just over two years old when sold. 4,192

Due to pressure on staffing resources and lack of interest there has been no roundabout sponsorship income received during this financial year. 3,000

#### **Leisure and Recreation Income**

Grant Legacy Funding has been received during the year as a contribution towards the play area refurbishment at Victoria Park. Works did not commence until May 2026, so these funds have been transferred to reserves. (100,000)

Section 106 Funding for the pump track at Adam Lee was received during 2025/26 with funds being used to offset costs incurred. This project had been delayed from the previous financial year whilst planning permission was awaited. (85,995)

The level of football income from the hire of pitches and changing rooms has been well under budget for the second consecutive year. 1,420

#### **Interest Receivable**

The fall in interest rates have resulted in a lower than expected interest income. 3,317

#### **Deferred Grants**

This item is not included in the annual budget and is an adjustment required in the Year End Accounts. (8,893)

### COSTS - Expenditure below budget and therefore causing a surplus is shown in brackets

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **Utility Charges at the Community Hub**

Although electricity usage and therefore electricity charges have been lower than expected, some issues relating to a water meter changeover have resulted in backdated charges as well as there being slightly higher water charges than initially expected. The future budget has been adjusted to allow for this increase. (3,289)  
4,449

#### **Business Rates**

When the 2025-26 budget was agreed, the final business rates charge for the Community Hub had not been set. The rateable value and therefore ongoing NNDR charges incurred by the Town Council are now known to be lower than expected by approximately £3,000 per annum, resulting in budget savings. (2,889)

#### **Professional - Planning Fees**

There has been an overspend in respect of fees for flood risk assessment reports needed to pursue planning permission at Elgar Avenue. The Council has made a decision to sell this land and this expenditure was agreed by Council for this project. 5,350

#### **Professional - Legal Fees**

Higher legal costs have been incurred in connection with the land slippage in Rose Bank Gardens 2,128

#### **Depreciation**

This item is currently not included in the budget and forms part of the year end adjustments. 48,209

# MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR VARIANCES - FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26

*COSTS - Expenditure below budget and therefore causing a surplus is shown in brackets*

### OPERATIONS

#### **Utilities**

A long standing billing issue in relation to water charges and associated drainage charges for the old pavilion at Victoria Park was settled during the year resulting in a large overspend against budget. 7,792

Electricity Charges for bus shelters on Belle Vue Terrace and in Barnards Green have been lower than expected as a result of MPAN credits on this year's charges. (2,661)

#### **Business Rates**

Business rates at Great Malvern Cemetery have increased by 15% rather than the 7.5% forecast. 718

Business rates for Victoria Park Car Park were omitted from the budget in error, with costs seen as an overspend against budget. 2,595

#### **Maintenance of Buildings - Cleaning**

Cleaning costs at the cemetery have been lower than anticipated as the council have been trying to recruit a new cleaner to replace the previous contractor who retired. (997)

#### **Communication Costs**

A number of ongoing issues with telephone charges have resulted in costs being higher than budgeted for during the 25/26 financial year. The charges and contract have been reviewed by officers and lower charges will be seen in 2026/27. 1,269

#### **Maintenance of Grounds**

With a budget of £33,485 there have been a number of underspends and overspends against this cost heading. (2,622)

Expenditure on play area maintenance has seen only 30% of budget spent, but there were refurbishment works carried out at Victoria Park and Adam Lee with further works planned for the next financial year.

Skip Hire and Rubbish Removal costs have been very low due to less being collected and the delay of removal of grave spoil and there has been limited works required on gas lamps with a release of accrued funds needed at year end.

These underspends have been slightly offset by the purchase of a new dog walkers bench at Victoria Park, tree works, sports equipment requirements and works to repair clocks.

#### **Vehicle Running Costs**

Repairs have been necessary to the Ford Transit twice during the year and also to the Corvus Electric Vehicle. 4,587

Operatives carry out maintenance as far as possible but on these occasions, a mechanic was required.

#### **Depreciation**

This item is currently not included in the budget and forms part of the year end adjustments. 77,862

### DISCRETIONARY COSTS

#### **Grants Costs**

There has been an underspend against small grants awarded in 2025/26 due to the low number of applications received. (3,260)

The award to South Worcestershire CAB was increased by £1,000 after the 2025/26 budget was set resulting in an overspend. 1,000

#### **Depreciation**

This item is currently not included in the budget and forms part of the year end adjustments. (3,501)

### ASSET REFURBISHMENT / RENEWAL

#### **Skatepark at Victoria Park**

This project has been delayed into the 2026/27 financial year due to the need to finalise the design and location of the new skatepark. (204,000)

#### **Children's Fitness Equipment at Victoria Park**

Council decided to install children's fitness equipment at Victoria Park to complement the adult equipment provided as part of the project to install the new building. This was not included in the original budget. 3,731

#### **Landscaping Works at Community Hub**

There has been an overspend against this project due to some additional works required including an extension of the patio and additional planting. 3,128

