

Houghton Regis Town Council

Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Houghton Regis Town Council

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Houghton Regis Town Council

Council Information

31 March 2026

(Information current at 15th June 2026)

Mayor

Clr D. Jones

Councillors

Clr E. Billington
Clr J. Carroll
Clr E. Cooper
Clr E. Costello
Clr Mrs Y. Farrell
Clr W. Henderson
Clr M. Herber
Clr T. McMahon
Clr C. Rollins
Clr A. Slough
Clr C. Slough
Clr D. Taylor
Vacancy

Town Clerk

Mrs Clare Evans

Responsible Financial Officer (R.F.O.)

Mrs Debbie Marsh

Auditors

Mazars LLP
Salvus House
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Internal Auditors

IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd
23 Westbury Rd
Yarnbrook
Wiltshire
BA14 6AG

Houghton Regis Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies

31 March 2026

Auditors

The name and address of the External Auditors is provided for information only.

These Statements are not subject to audit and the External Auditors have no responsibility for them.

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Guidance Notes for Local Councils (the Guide) issued by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as applicable to a medium sized council.

These accounts have been prepared having regard to the fundamental accounting concepts of: Going Concern, Prudence, Accruals, Relevance, Consistency, Reliability, Comparability, Understandability and Materiality.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Fixed Assets

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets is reported in the notes to the accounts, provided that the fixed asset yields benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Fixed assets are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA. The year end values are stated on the following basis:

land, operational properties and other operational assets are reported in notes to the accounts at cost (where known) or at insurance values current when first reported as approximating to the lower of net replacement cost and net realisable value at that time (previous years at current insurance values).

certain community assets are the subject of restrictive covenants as to their; use and/or future disposal. Such assets are therefore considered to have no appreciable realisable value and are included at nominal value only.

Revenue Grants

Revenue grants are credited to income when conditions attached thereto have been fulfilled and/or equivalent expenditure has been incurred. Grants received in respect of which the conditions have not been fulfilled, or expenditure incurred, are carried forward as deferred revenue grants.

Investments

Investments are included in the balance sheet at historic cost and realised gains or losses are taken into the income and expenditure account as realised. Details are given at note 8.

Debtors and Creditors

The council reviews the level of its commercial debtors on a regular basis and provisions are made, as required, where the likelihood of amounts proving ultimately collectable is in doubt.

Value Added Tax

Income and Expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT suffered/collected is recoverable from or payable to HM Revenue and Customs. Any amounts not so recoverable are treated as a separate expense.

Houghton Regis Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies
31 March 2026

External Loan Repayments

The council is not required by the Guide to incorporate external borrowings in its Balance Sheet. Details are shown at note 13.

Leases

The council is not required by the Guide to incorporate Hire Purchase and/or Finance Lease obligations in its Balance Sheet. Details are shown at note 12.

Reserves

The council maintains certain reserves to meet general and specific future expenditure. The purpose of the council's reserves is explained in notes 14 to 15.

Interest Income

All interest receipts are credited initially to general funds.

Pensions

The pension costs that are charged against precept in the council's accounts, in respect of its employees, are equal to the contributions paid to the funded pension scheme for those employees.

These contributions are determined by the fund's actuary on a triennial basis and are set to meet 100% of the liabilities of the pension fund, in accordance with relevant government regulations.

The next actuarial valuation is due at 31st March 2028 and any change in contribution rates as a result of that valuation will take effect from 1st April 2029.

Houghton Regis Town Council
Income and Expenditure Account

31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
INCOME			
Precept on Principal Authority		1,660,722	1,363,800
Capital Receipts, Grants and Loan Proceeds		64,128	265,790
Interest and Investment Income	1	160,898	71,704
Leisure and Recreation		3,316,367	77,706
Allotments		3,825	3,640
Cemetery & Churchyard		15,097	14,020
Community & Youth		5,699	1,132
Highways - Footpaths and Lighting		640	240
Miscellaneous		61	8,086
Community Development		4,314	184,091
Sale of Investments		-	(19,791)
Sale of Assets		-	25,950
		5,231,751	1,996,368
 EXPENDITURE			
Establishment/General Administration		102,150	111,306
Agency Costs	11	41,510	32,059
Capital Expenditure incl Capital Grants	7	201,671	683,201
Loan Interest and Capital Repayments		59,349	68,895
Operational Expenditure:			
Leisure and Recreation inc. Pavilions		379,912	241,508
Allotments		2,718	532
Cemetery & Churchyard		2,300	3,709
Planning and Development		850	1,792
Corporate Services Staff Costs		326,502	293,049
Democratic Representation and Management		14,794	13,108
Environment & Leisure Staff Costs		441,852	375,576
Public Toilets		24,375	22,200
Grants Under Specific Powers		28,898	30,071
Community Services Staff Costs		287,528	199,325
Community Services		147,786	222,743
		2,062,195	2,299,074
 General Fund			
Balance at 01 April 2025		398,117	485,804
Add: Total Income		5,231,751	1,996,368
		5,629,868	2,482,172
Deduct: Total Expenditure		2,062,195	2,299,074
		3,567,673	183,098
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	15	(2,979,775)	215,019
General Reserve Balance at 31 March 2026		587,898	398,117

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these unaudited statements.

Houghton Regis Town Council

Balance Sheet

31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	9	92,360		312,925
Investments	8	4,119,500		869,500
Cash at bank and in hand		36,434		10,653
		4,248,294		1,193,078
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and income in advance	10	(174,101)		(288,441)
Net Current Assets			4,074,193	904,637
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			4,074,193	904,637
Total Assets Less Liabilities			4,074,193	904,637
Capital and Reserves				
Earmarked Reserves	15		3,486,295	506,520
General Reserve			587,898	398,117
			4,074,193	904,637

Signed: *D. J. Jones.*

Cllr D. Jones
Mayor

..... *De Marsh*

Mrs Debbie Marsh
Responsible Financial Officer

Date: *15/6/2026.*

..... *15/6/2026*

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these unaudited statements.

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

1 Interest and Investment Income

	2026	2025
	£	£
Interest Income - General Funds	160,898	71,704
	<u>160,898</u>	<u>71,704</u>

2 Publicity

Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1986 requires the council to disclose expenditure on publicity. Details are shown under the following broad categories:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Recruitment Advertising	210	-
Publicity	-	75
Councils Website	1,395	9,125
Newsletter	1,612	4,942
	<u>3,217</u>	<u>14,142</u>

3 General Power of Competence

With effect from 28th September 2015 Houghton Regis Town Council acquired the right to exercise the General Power of Competence extended to Town and Parish Councils under the Localism Act 2011 by S.I. 2012 No 965 (The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012). Therefore, with effect from 28th September 2015 the council no longer exercises the powers conveyed by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

4 Tenancies

During the year the following tenancies were held:

Council as landlord

Tenant	Property	Rent p.a. £	Repairing / Non-Repairing
Various	Allotments	3,825	Non-Repairing

Council as tenant

Landlord	Property	Rent p.a. £	Repairing / Non-Repairing
Central Bedfordshire Council	Workshop	15,500	Non-Repairing
Central Bedfordshire Council	Parkside Recreation Ground	50	N/A
Central Bedfordshire Council	Tithe Farm Recreation Ground	5	N/A

5 Pensions

For the year of account the council's contributions equal 26.80% of employees' pensionable pay. These contributions will decrease to 17.80%, plus a lump sum of £29,300, in future years, which will provide adequately for future liabilities.

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

6 Fixed Assets

	2026	2025
	£	£
	Value	Value
At 31 March the following assets were held:		
<u>Land and Buildings</u>		
Bowls Green Shed	2,800	2,800
Houghton Regis Memorial Hall	293,000	293,000
Council Offices and Land	260,400	260,400
New Community venue with council chamber	16,877	-
Sports Pavilion Moore Crescent	340,020	340,020
Thorn Park Pavilion	1	-
Leasehold-Tithe Farm Grounds Store	138,900	138,900
Leasehold-Tithe Farm all weather pitch and pavilion	3,413,366	3,411,385
Leasehold-Parkside Pavilion	154,784	154,784
Leasehold - Orchard Close Pavilion	115,940	115,940
Leasehold-Village Green Pavilion	459,836	459,836
	<u>5,195,924</u>	<u>5,177,065</u>

6 Fixed Assets (cont'd)

Vehicles and Equipment

	2026	2025
Recreation Ground Equipment	54,474	54,474
Office Equipment	52,073	48,475
Office Boiler	2,990	2,990
Office Furniture	100,226	100,226
Pavilion Furniture & Equipment	7,446	7,446
Play and Sports Equipment & Safety Surfaces	460,158	460,158
Skate Park	90,306	90,306
M U G A	30,062	30,062
Christmas Decorations	64,269	64,269
Kubota Tractor M9540 - LK09 EPL	35,000	35,000
Iseki Tractor OY26 FTC	71,445	-
Ford Ranger EX67 KKW	16,942	16,942
Ford Ranger EN68 VTG	22,520	22,520
Ford Ranger LC69 HCL	18,990	18,990
Ford Transit Tipper LC23 YMJ	26,990	-
Karcher Street Sweeper LB21 YSM	25,000	-
P7E Trailer	795	795
LT106G Trailer	2,465	2,465
Ifor Williams Trailer	800	800
Work Platform (f/lift)	650	650
Dennis Mower	1,500	1,500
Verticut Mower	1,200	1,200
Ransomes Cylinder Mower	850	850
Hayter Mower	2,137	2,137
Hayter Mower (2018)	535	535
Hayter Pro Rotary Mower	1,149	1,149
Pro Virtue SVP Mower x 2	748	748
Verti-Cutter	1,329	1,329
Harrier Grass Cutter x 2	1,400	1,400

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

	2026	2025
6 Fixed Assets (cont'd)		
Honda Tractor Rotavator	4,300	4,300
Stihl AR300L	1,320	1,320
Stihl RMA765 Mower	1,037	1,037
Sissis Autorake	5,209	5,209
Bomford Kestrel Arm Mower	24,600	24,600
Stihl Battery Brushcutters (6)	6,445	6,445
Tomlin Harrows	4,229	4,229
Mitsubishi truck KY64BGK	15,000	15,000
Exac Post Hole Borer	1,500	1,500
Dump Trailer 12' x 6'	4,650	4,650
JCB Mini Excavator	3,476	3,476
Kubota K15 DXU	14,116	14,116
Kubota F3890 (KX68 BEJ)	18,368	18,368
Kubota XL300 Spreader	1,888	1,888
Elait Mega Prof Shredder D1105T	20,998	-
HP440P Grteen Water Bowser	4,595	-
Rotowash	7,176	7,176
CCTV Equipment	25,041	25,041
Anti-Ram Bollards	5,592	5,592
Gazebos	905	905
Cemetery Earth Augur	670	670
Hot Water Pressure Cleaner	18,219	18,219
Mobile Steam Cleaner	17,999	17,999
Shibarua Tractor LK 17 KTD	19,755	19,755
Sports Equipment (Village Green)	69,999	69,999
Outdoor Gym	4,100	4,100
Kubota RTV KX20 CCJ	15,250	15,250
Defibrillators	10,092	10,092
	<hr/> <hr/> 1,420,978	<hr/> <hr/> 1,268,352
<u>Infrastructure Assets</u>		
Gates and Fencing	99,769	99,769
Bowls Irrigation System	7,290	7,290
Speed Activated Signs	9,226	9,226
Town Signs & Noticeboards	23,673	12,157
Litter Bins	9,970	9,970
Bollards - Village Green Grnd	7,192	7,192
Benches	5,990	5,990
Flame Beacon	2,204	2,204
Flag Poles	5,875	5,875
Memorial Hall Planter	3,720	3,720
Floodlights (Tithe Farm Skate Park)	15,844	15,844
Bedford Rd Wall (All Saints Gate)	20,018	20,018
Village Green Play Area Resurfacing	48,000	48,000
Resurface Orchard Close Play Area	21,081	21,081
Parkside Family Picnic Area	10,180	10,180
Allotment Shed Bases	6,502	6,502
Houghton Hall Park Borehole	18,666	-
	<hr/> <hr/> 315,200	<hr/> <hr/> 285,018

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

	2026	2025
6 Fixed Assets (cont'd)		
<u>Community Assets</u>		
Civic Regalia	4,779	4,779
War Memorial	9,363	9,363
Village Green	1	1
Tithe Farm Recreation Ground	1	1
Land rear of Orchard Close	1	1
Houghton Regis Cemetery	104,305	104,305
New Cemetery Development	45,781	45,781
Orchard Close Recreation Ground	1	1
Land rear of Houghton Court	1	1
Land rear of Village Green Pavilion	1	1
Land Adj Chapel Path	1	1
Land off Townsend Farm Road	1	1
All Saints Churchyard	1	1
Land at Moore Crescent	1	1
Land at The Baulk	1	1
Land at Orchard Close	1	1
Parcels within Dog Kennel Down Area	1	1
Parkside Recreation Ground	1	1
Part of The Paddocks	1	1
Former Railway Line	1	1
Thorn Park (4 parcels of land)	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	164,248	164,244
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,096,350	6,894,679
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The basis of valuation of the above assets is set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

7 Fixed Assets - Additions and Disposals

	2026	2025
	£	£
	Cost	Cost
During the year the following assets were purchased:		
Operational Land and Buildings	18,859	494,833
Vehicles and Equipment	152,626	176,848
Infrastructure Assets	30,182	7,200
Community Assets	4	4,320
	<u>201,671</u>	<u>683,201</u>

During the year the following assets were disposed of:

	Proceeds	Proceeds
Vehicles and Equipment	-	25,950
	<u>-</u>	<u>25,950</u>

8 Current Asset Investments

	2026	2025
	£	£
L A Deposit Fund Account	3,869,500	869,500
Debt Management Deposit Account	250,000	-
	<u>4,119,500</u>	<u>869,500</u>

9 Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Debtors	24,690	154,336
VAT Recoverable	41,500	50,733
Other Debtors	250	251
Prepayments	9,255	6,924
Accrued Income	16,665	3,681
Capital Grant Debtors	-	97,000
	<u>92,360</u>	<u>312,925</u>

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

10 Creditors and Accrued Expenses

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Creditors	38,869	41,940
Payroll Taxes and Social Security	19,549	13,120
Accruals	34,852	152,680
Income in Advance	330	200
Capital Creditors	54,725	54,725
Capital Receipts in Advance	25,776	25,776
	<u>174,101</u>	<u>288,441</u>

11 Agency Work

During the year the Council undertook no agency work on behalf of other authorities.

During the year the Council commissioned the following agency work to be performed by other authorities:

Performing Authority and Nature of Work	2026	2025
	£	£
Central Bedfordshire Council - CCTV Monitoring	3,467	3,007
Police & Crime Commissioner Beds - OP HANA	38,043	29,052
	<u>41,510</u>	<u>32,059</u>

A final claim to 31 March 2026 has been made.

12 Hire Purchase and Lease Obligations

At 31 March the following hire purchase agreement(s) and lease(s) were in operation:

Hire/Lessor	Purpose	Annual Lease/Hire Payable	Year of Expiry
		£	
Grenke Leasing Ltd	Photocopier	511	2029

Houghton Regis Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

13 Loans

At the close of business on 31 March 2026 the following loans to the council were outstanding:

Lender	Loan Period	Amount £	Years Remaining
Public Works Loan Board	24 Years from 19 th October 2009	71,215	8
Public Works Loan Board	24 Years from 5 th February 2010	82,001	8
Public Works Loan Board	24 Years from 22 nd November 2023	483,991	22

14 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

	2026 £	2025 £
Capital receipts (asset sales) during the year	-	25,950
<i>Less:</i>		
Capital used to fund expenditure	-	(25,950)
Balance at 31 March	-	-

The Usable Capital Receipts Reserve represents capital receipts available to finance capital expenditure in future years.

15 Earmarked Reserves

	Balance at 01/04/2025 £	Contribution to reserve £	Contribution from reserve £	Balance at 31/03/2026 £
Other Earmarked Reserves	506,520	3,287,492	(307,717)	3,486,295
Total Earmarked Reserves	506,520	3,287,492	(307,717)	3,486,295

The Other Earmarked Reserves are credited with amounts set aside from revenue to fund specific known commitments of the council.

The Other Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2026 are set out in detail at Appendix A.

16 Capital Commitments

The council had no capital commitments at 31 March 2026 not otherwise provided for in these accounts.

17 Contingent Liabilities

The council is not aware of any contingent liabilities at the date of these accounts.

Houghton Regis Town Council

Appendices

31 March 2026

Appendix A

Schedule of Earmarked Reserves

	<u>Balance at</u> <u>01/04/2025</u>	<u>Contribution</u> <u>to reserve</u>	<u>Contribution</u> <u>from reserve</u>	<u>Balance at</u> <u>31/03/2026</u>
	£	£	£	£
All Saints Churchyard Wall	5,616			5,616
Bidwell Countryside Recreation Open Space	-	990,726	(82,649)	908,077
Pavilion Renovation	26,189	99,647		125,836
Street Furniture	11,251	1,000	(11,516)	735
Bidwell Formal Park	-	618,267	(51,656)	566,611
Grounds Machinery Renewal	1,920	4,088		6,008
Play Areas	179,256	15,000		194,256
Bidwell Sports Pitches	-	1,487,283	(123,973)	1,363,310
Community Development	18,701	6,800	(8,000)	17,501
Elections	7,697	6,000		13,697
Bidwell SUDS	-	58,681		58,681
Cemetery Provision	66,560			66,560
Allotments	32,960			32,960
Former Railway Line	21,489		(7,163)	14,326
CBC Bulk Waste Reserve	7,200			7,200
Office Provision	122,699		(17,778)	104,921
Houghton Hall Park Project	4,982		(4,982)	-
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	506,520	3,287,492	(307,717)	3,486,295

