

Clerk's report – Office and Finance Meeting 26th August 2025

9.3 EMR Funds as at 31.07.2025

	Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
321	EMR - Comm Asset Renewal & Repair	12,468.97	-97.00	12,371.97
322	EMR - Elections	9,500.00		9,500.00
323	EMR - Office Equipment Replace	389.19	-82.00	307.19
324	EMR - Speed Reduction	500.00		500.00
326	EMR - Old Church	1,440.00		1,440.00
328	EMR - Lucy Stone Precinct project	18,405.94		18,405.94
330	EMR - Open Spaces Maintenance	7,895.00	-545.25	7,349.75
350	EMR -Lightsource Grant Funds	13,564.58	-500.00	13,064.58
351	EMR - Almond Field	6,841.54	-48.00	6,793.54
				69,732.97

For consideration:

- To increase Office Equipment replacement EMR
- To increase Open Spaces EMR
- New EMR for play equipment renewal
- New EMR for devolution costs associated with taking on LDC assets

9.4 CIL Funds as at 31.07.2025

	Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320	EMR - CIL - unallocated	99,043.56	93,201.95	192,245.51
332	EMR - CIL - Ringmer NHP	24,746.70		24,746.70
334	EMR - CIL - Bus Shelters	7,591.66	-7,591.66	0.00
335	EMR - CIL - Skatepark	9,526.34		9,526.34
340	EMR - CIL - Shopping Precinct	32,000.00		32,000.00
341	EMR - CIL - Cycle path Extn	50,000.00		50,000.00
345	EMR - CIL - Village Gateway	13,000.00		13,000.00
347	EMR - CIL - Ringmer Rifle Club	35,000.00	-35,000.00	0.00
				321,518.55

Grants – S137 £1500 budget – payments made:

- Patina - £250 Apr 25

Grants – Lightsource payments made:

- Ringmer Community Orchard - £500 Apr 25 (returned as the orchard is closing)

Grants – CIL payments made:

- None

11.1 William Townsend Gardening Services

William helps us with gardening work, occasionally at the allotments and more recently with the revamp of Jubilee Gardens. He has been charging £12 per hour which is below the National Minimum Wage of £12.21 (real living wage is £12.60 p/h). DD has suggested an increase to £13 per hour going forward and backdated to the beginning of this financial year (which would cost an additional £20). He undertook 46hrs for us in the previous tax year. Most of these hours were related to the Jubilee Gardens project which is 2/3 complete. It is estimated that it will cost £500 to complete the project. There is £500 budget and an EMR (code 330) with balance of £7,350 which can be utilised for this expenditure

11.4 Allotment update for 2025

All 31 plots (including the recent split of plot 5 into three) are occupied by Ringmer residents, with a waiting list in place.

200	Allotments	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Trf to/from EMR
1200	Allotment income (inc b/fwd £1013 24/25)	1089	1014	(75)			107.4%	
	Allotments :- Income	1089	1,014	(75)			107.4%	0
4100	Rent	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
4205	Water Charges	241	400	159		159	60.3%	
4400	Maintenance other	306	500	194		194	61.1%	
4202	Grass Contract - Smaller Areas	114	286	172		172	39.9%	
	Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	661	1236	575	0	575	53.5%	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	428	(222)	(650)				

As of 7th Aug, the total income to date is £1,089, which includes £1,013 received in 2024/25 (the allotment year runs Jan – Dec). Expenditure to date is £661. Exceptional expenses included dividing plot 5 – fencing and gates £235. Tidying plots + replacing posts £45.

An allotment holder requested installing a composting toilet due to increased attendance by women and children. The Parish Council supports the idea in principal but will wait until the proposal to form an Allotment Association is reviewed, as the association could access additional grants and could take on responsibility for the facility.

There was a proposal put forward to start an allotment society and we have recently had contact to arrange a meeting to discuss taking this forward.

General

- Precept** – The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has published information on council tax levels set by councils in England for the financial year 2025/26. The average band D precept charged for this year is £92.22. RPC's is £73.89.
- Salaries** – The annual Local Government Services Pay Award is now agreed at 3.5% and has been implemented wef 01.04.25.
- Vat refund** of £902.78 received 04.08.25.
- A CIL Expression of Interest was received** from Action Against Abuse: a charity who support victims of abuse in East Sussex by arranging civil protective order (often non-molestation orders) for people who cannot afford to fund themselves via private solicitors. They requested £2,621 to assist with running costs and advised that as Ringmer grows so will its number of abuse victims. Emma Kemp, the CIL Officer at Lewes confirmed my thoughts and advised: "I think you are correct in that I don't feel NCIL would be able to fund this type of work. With NCIL I think the Parish would need to be satisfied that the spending would be supporting the development of Ringmer – in this case if it is going into a wider pot there is no guarantee of where it would be spent and therefore quite difficult to justify. None of that takes away from the importance of the cause but CIL isn't the most appropriate funding stream." The EOI was declined.