SOFTWARE PACKAGES

Great Waltham Parish Council 2023

GWPC

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Great Waltham Parish Council (GWPC)

- ## What software is available ?
- Commercial standard software
    - o Workday
    - o XERO
    - o QuickBooks
    - o Sage
- Parish Council focused software
    - o Parish Soft
    - o Scribe
    - o Rialtas
    - o Advantedge
    - o EasyPc Accounts

Review of Commercial Standard Software

- Workday (https://www.workday.com/en-gb/homepage.html)
- XERO (https://www.xero.com/uk/small-businesses/)
- Quickbooks (https://quickbooks.intuit.com/uk/why-quickbooks/)
- Sage (https://www.sage.com/en-gb/sage-business-cloud/intacct/)

There is more detail in the November report but I felt there are better packages that focus on the Parish Council.

Review of Parish Council focused Software

- Parish Soft (https://www.parishsoft.com/accounting-for-parishes/)

This is a Catholic Church based system that links in with fixed assets , payroll, pensions and general accounting. It is Church focused so misses some of the other areas such as allotments , VAT etc. It is web based and a single logon. However, it also links in to the Church offering system and understandably is focused in that direction.

- Scribe (https://www.scribeaccounts.com/)

As a Parish focused software, it covers several of the essential tasks , AGAR , Vat 126 , Invoicing , Bank reconciliation , Reserves and asset register.
A lot of support and webinars available. The systems is not as extensive as the Rialtas or Advantedge systems. Scribe has chosen to focus on the finance systems required by Town and Parish Councils.

Cost £1835 Year 1
         £1356 Year 2 and subsequent year (plus % increase)

- Rialtas (https://www.rialtas.co.uk/)

Web based system specifically for Parish and Town councils. The Alpha Accounts , Asset Management , Facilities booking management , Allotment Management (Including inspections) .
The systems look good and the advantage of the allotment inspections looks very useful.
Cost £3314 Year 1
         £1196 Year 2 and subsequent years (plus % increase)

- Advantedge (https://edgeitsystems.com/advantedge/)
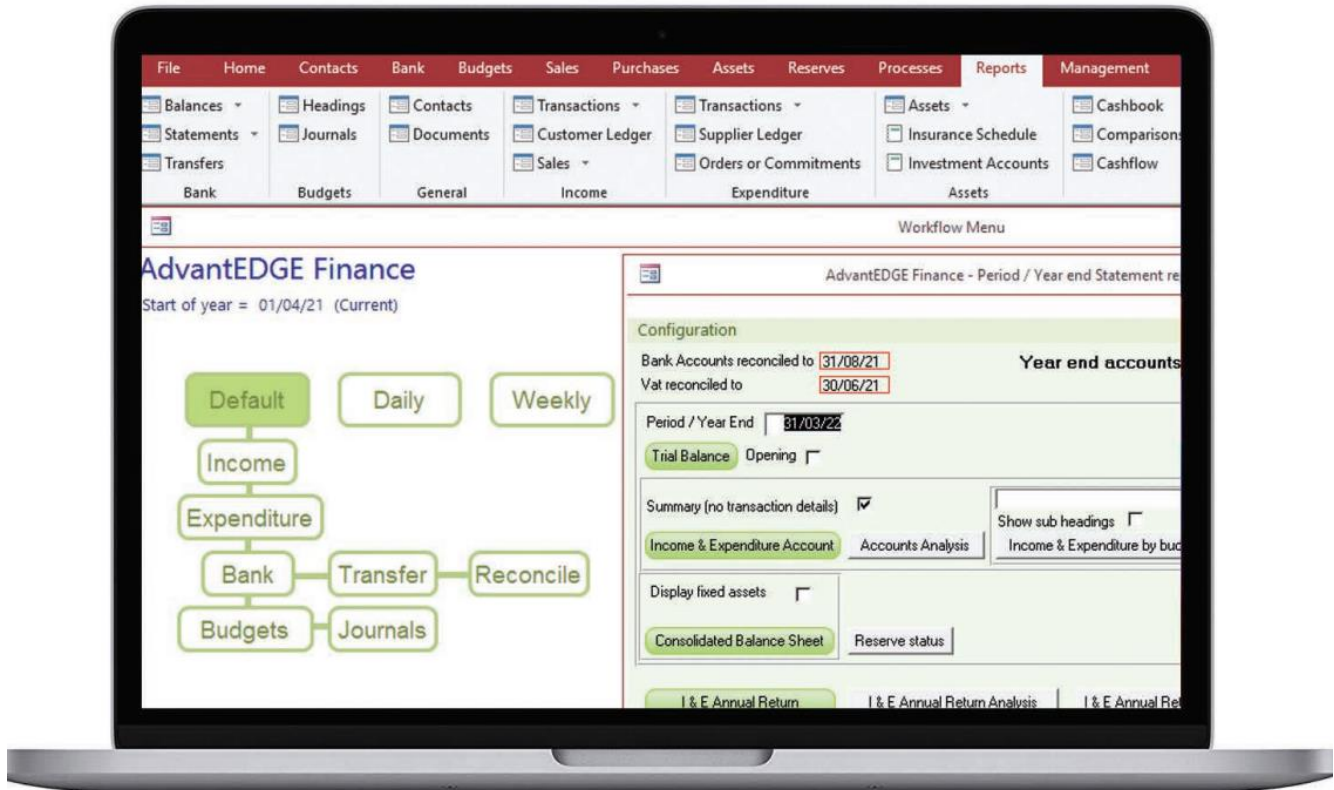- *https://youtu.be/Pi8RRNWVwaw*

Web based system. An extensive range of solutions . The first one I have seen with ADMIN + that covers Agendas , Minutes , Notices and declarations of interest. Allotment Management, Asset Manager , Facility bookings , Finance , Inspection Playgrounds/Allotments and service manager. All integrate using Inspect edge for Assets , Playground and allotments.
This would cost the Parish Council :
Year 1   £3,000 (ex Vat)
Year 2   £1200 (ex Vat)
Year 3   £1200 (ex Vat)

- EasyPc Accounts (http://www.easypcaccounts.co.uk/)

An extremely basic accounts only system. Very low cost but with no additional modules available.

<u>Recommendation</u>

The two main software packages are Rialtas and Advantedge. The costs are very similar, and both software's are web based.

The advantedge continues to be developed with additional modules being built that will integrate with each other. The support is very good. The costs are unbudgeted in 2023 – 2024 but a software system will improve the professionalism and efficiency of the Parish Council.

After looking at the software and arranging demonstrations the Advantage software should be recommended to the Parish Council as a system to be purchased and used for the next 3 years starting.

Appendix

1. Testimonial

To: Great Waltham Parish Council <clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Advantedge Software

Hi Will

I inherited Edge when I started here in 2017 and have found it very good. I was trained on it by my predecessor, but have had help from the Edge support team on many occasions. They are quick to respond to queries and are happy to talk you through new processes (for example, the recent move to Make Tax Digital). There is plenty of year end support if you want/need it too.

We use the finance, burial and street lighting packages.

Would recommend!

Hope this helps? Happy to chat through any questions if you want to discuss further.

Sarah

2. F.A.Q.

- Are there any Councils in Essex that use the system so that I can get some feedback ?
- ➢ Brightlingsea TC, Boreham PC, Hatfield Peverel PC, Maldon TC, Leigh-On-Sea TC, to name a few.

- What happens to the playground inspection data if anything would happen to the advantedge system as we need over 20 years of inspection records ?
- ➢ AdvantEDGE includes escrow managed by Software Escrow Solutions (SES). If EDGE ceased to trade for any reason the escrow would be activated, and SES would failover the AdvantEDGE service to the Datto disaster recovery data centre for 60 days. During this period SES would provide AdvantEDGE clients with the ability to download their AdvantEDGE Playground database and Playground software with a 6 month license. The AdvantEDGE Playground contains the historical inspections. There are escrow options for an in-perpetuity software license and the software source code. SES will also provide the ability to download all of the inspection photographs and documents attached to the Playground database.

- ➢ Can we start at any time or do you recommend New financial year ?
- ➢ You can start at any time, but some clients do prefer to start at the new financial year for the Finance module.

- ➢ Has anyone ever asked for a cost benefit analysis ? Not directly.
- ➢ This is generally something you would complete understanding the benefits of using a system rather than manual processes, such as data security, back-ups, integrity of data, efficiency in working time, integrations etc.

- ➢ How many Councils do you have as customers – in total ?
- ➢ We have over 360 customers in which over 300 of these are local authorities