



## PILLING PARISH

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 6.00pm in Pilling Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors; *Mr N. Cookson, Chairman,  
Mrs. E. Cookson,  
Mr G. Curwen,  
Mrs. J. Judkins  
Mr P. McWhirter,  
Mr S. Phillpotts,  
Mr J. Savage,  
Mr A. Whiteside  
Mr D. Ponton  
Julia Brewer, Clerk to the Parish Council*

**In attendance:** *Mr D. Wilkinson  
Sergeant Elliott Jones*

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were sent from Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh and Lancashire County Council Councillor Matthew Salter.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

*Resolved; The Chairman signed the minutes.*

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

*Resolved: No matters were raised from the minutes.*

#### **4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. N Cookson reported on the activities of the Parish Council during the year and particularly highlighted the work undertaken regarding flooding within Pilling, and also the work that has been undertaken to try to attempt to resolve the dispute between Wyre Council and Create Homes.

Looking forward to the next financial year, Cllr Cookson reported that one of the priorities of the Parish Council would be trying to get some clarity from Wyre Council regarding planning issues and the apparent lack of enforcement of planning regulations.

A new initiative is being introduced by the Parish Council for awarding Small Grants of up to £500.00. Details of which can be found on the Pilling Parish Council website

[www.pilling-pc.gov.uk](http://www.pilling-pc.gov.uk).

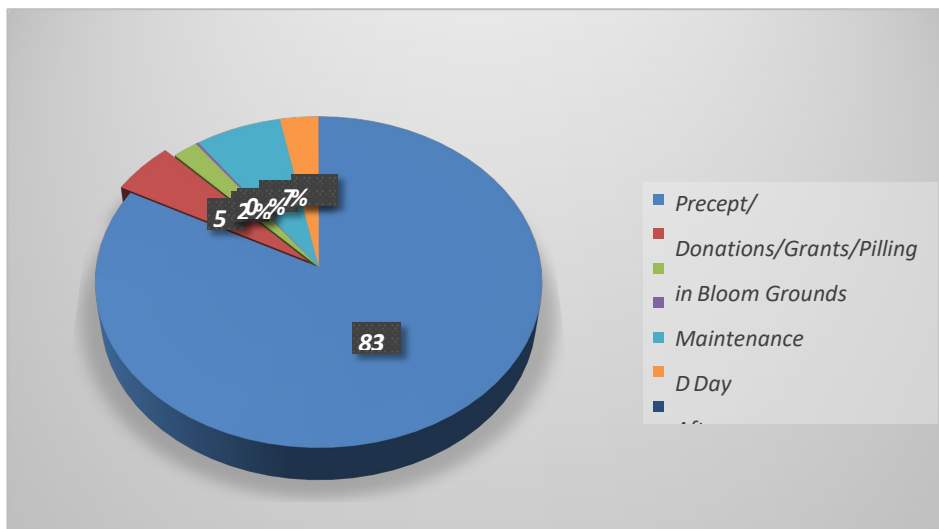
*Resolved: The report was accepted.*

## 5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

### Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

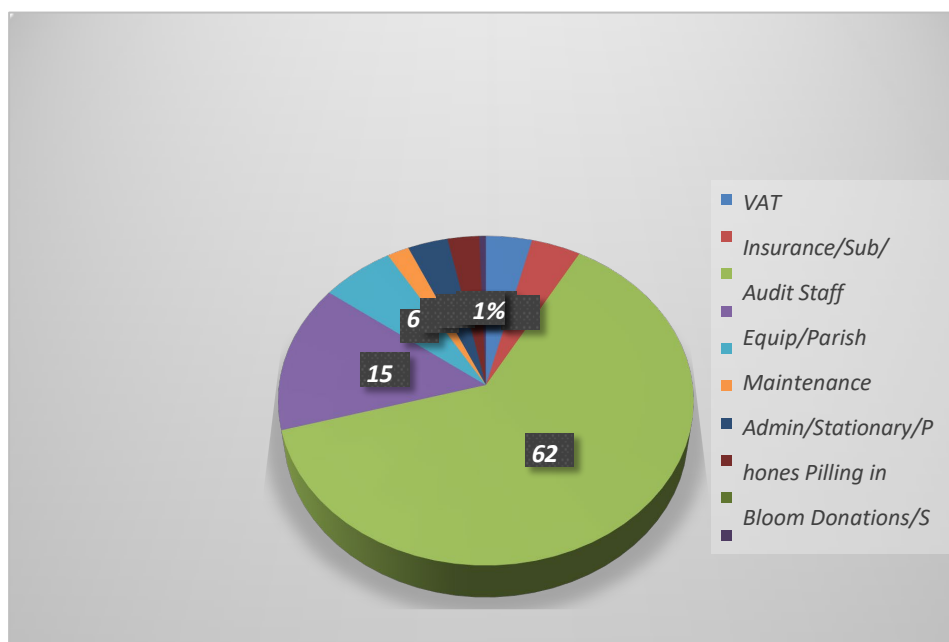
Carried forward 23/24:		Year end: 24/25	
Unity Trust Bank	£ 6,593.38	£ 8,537.47	Furness
Building Society	£84,451.01	£ 84,488.51	
Redwood Savings A/c		£ 1,000.00	
	<u>£91,044.39</u>	<u>£ 94,023.15</u>	

### Income



- **Precept:** (83%)
- **Grant Income/Pilling Bloom :** (5.%)
- **Grounds Maintenance Contracts:** £ (2.%)
- **Loan Repayments (Village Hall):** (7%)
- **VAT:** (3%)

### Expenditure



- Staffing: (62%)
- Insurance: (4%)
- Equipment/Parish Maintenance (15%)
- Administration costs: (6%)
- Pilling in Bloom: (2%)
- Pilling Community Action: 3%
- S137/Donations: 3%
- D-Day Event: (1%)
- VAT: £4%

Staff costs increased slightly with a new pay deal and crossover of staff during appointment of new Clerk to the Council.

### **Investments:**

The Parish Council seeks to get the best possible return from its investments. Currently the Parish Council has the following accounts:

- Furness Building Society: 2% interest
- Redwood Bank: 4% interest

However the Council is looking to open a Fixed Term Investment account paying 4% to replace the Furness Building Society account.

### **Looking forward to 25/26**

**Precept:** The precept has been set again at £80,000 as the Parish Council have undertaken not to increase the precept but to fund any capital expenditure from Reserves.

Staff costs will increase slightly due to the rise in National Insurance costs, however the increase has been factored into the budget.

Overall the Council is in a strong financial position going forward.

*Resolved: The report was accepted.*

## **6. REPORT FROM LOCAL POLICE**

Sergeant Elliott gave a verbal report on community policing and highlighted the difference between Immediate Response and Neighbourhood policing for the benefit of those present.

He explained that the recent incidence of a car being torched would have been dealt with by Immediate Response and officers would have been deployed from Fleetwood Station whereas the focus at Garstang station was on community engagement and collection of intelligence.

He specifically stressed that there were no major issues within Pilling but that it was difficult to spot indications of drug dealing in rural areas as opposed to towns where it was more openly prevalent.

The issue of electric scooters was also discussed and it was confirmed that these would be seized by the Police under S165.

**7. REPORTS**

As there were no residents in attendance it was decided to take the individual reports as part of the normal Parish Council meeting.

**8. FLOOD MANAGEMENT - PILLING**

David Wilkinson gave a presentation on the flood management issues within Pilling and the initiatives being taken to counteract the threat from increased flooding in the future.

He indicated that previously the Environment Agency had been responsible for the clearing of dykes but that in recent years it had increasingly fallen to farmers to pick this up. Drone footage shown also highlighted the growth of the salt marsh at the other side of the sea wall which was another factor in the issue of flooding.

Following discussion with the Environment Agency, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and other parties, it had been agreed that a company would be formed to manage the flooding issues within Pilling and David had agreed to set up a CIC (Community Interest Company) which would be known as the Broadfleet Water Management Group of which he would be chair.

Funds would need to be raised and it was noted that this might entail a levy being applied at some point in the future.

**9. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There were no matters raised by residents.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50 pm.*

Date .....

Chairman .....

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.***