

Pilling Parish Newsletter

**SPRING
2025**

MAY



Report from the Chair of Pilling Paris Council

Since the last newsletter we have entered Spring 2025 and our new financial year. The Parish Council is in a sound financial position and the precept has been maintained at £80,000.

- We have adequate resources to cover for any emergencies and are in a position to award small grants to any village-based organisation needing funding. Pilling Band have already benefitted from this and funds were provided to help to buy new instruments for the junior section of the band.

Other applications are invited and further details are available on the Parish Council website at www.pilling-pc.gov.uk/ or alternatively please contact the Clerk or any of the councillors directly.

Road Repairs

The new year also hails a new round of funding from Lancashire County Council, and we have lobbied hard for funding to repair our roads, particularly Smallwood Hey.

Unfortunately, our concerns seem to have fallen on deaf ears again this year, and the only projected repairs this year will be to Bradshaw Lane.

I would implore residents to report any road defects to Lancashire County Council via the 'Love Clean Streets' app which is available from the main Lancashire County Council website or download from Google/Apple Stores. The more reports are made, the more likely it is to get some chance of action.



Flooding

Councillors continue to work with various agencies regarding the flooding issues within Pilling.

Planning

We have also held meetings with Wyre Council to discuss their planning strategy and how it will affect Pilling. Including the issues of breaches of planning regulations and enforcement.

Report from the Chair of Pilling Paris Council

Events

The Parish Council organised a VE Day celebration for the Over 60's which was held at the Village Hall on Friday 09/05/2025, as well as funding digital 'drop-in' sessions for Pilling residents which have run on a monthly basis.



Vacancy on Parish Council

Sadly, the Parish Council will shortly have another vacancy as Cllr Judy Judkins has tendered her resignation from the Parish Council as she has now moved from the area to Lancaster.

Her contribution to the work of the Council and to the parishioners of Pilling cannot be overstated, particularly in the areas of community action and Pilling in Bloom, and she will be sadly missed. On behalf of everyone on the Parish Council I would like to express my thanks to Judy for her all her enthusiasm, hard work and commitment, and wish her the very best for the future.



Meetings

All residents are welcome to attend our meetings which are held at Pilling Village Hall at 7pm on the second Wednesday of every month, or you can contact us via the main website www.pilling-pc.gov.uk/ , Facebook page, or email the Clerk clerk@pilling-pc.gov.uk.

Front Cover

Finally, the Parish Council instigated a competition for the children from the two schools in KS1 to design the front cover for the Newsletters. One from each school was selected for the Spring and Autumn newsletters respectively and congratulations go to Ava Roskell from St John's Primary who was selected as the winner for the Spring edition and designed the cover for this issue. Ava will receive a £20 book token.

Neil Cookson
Chair

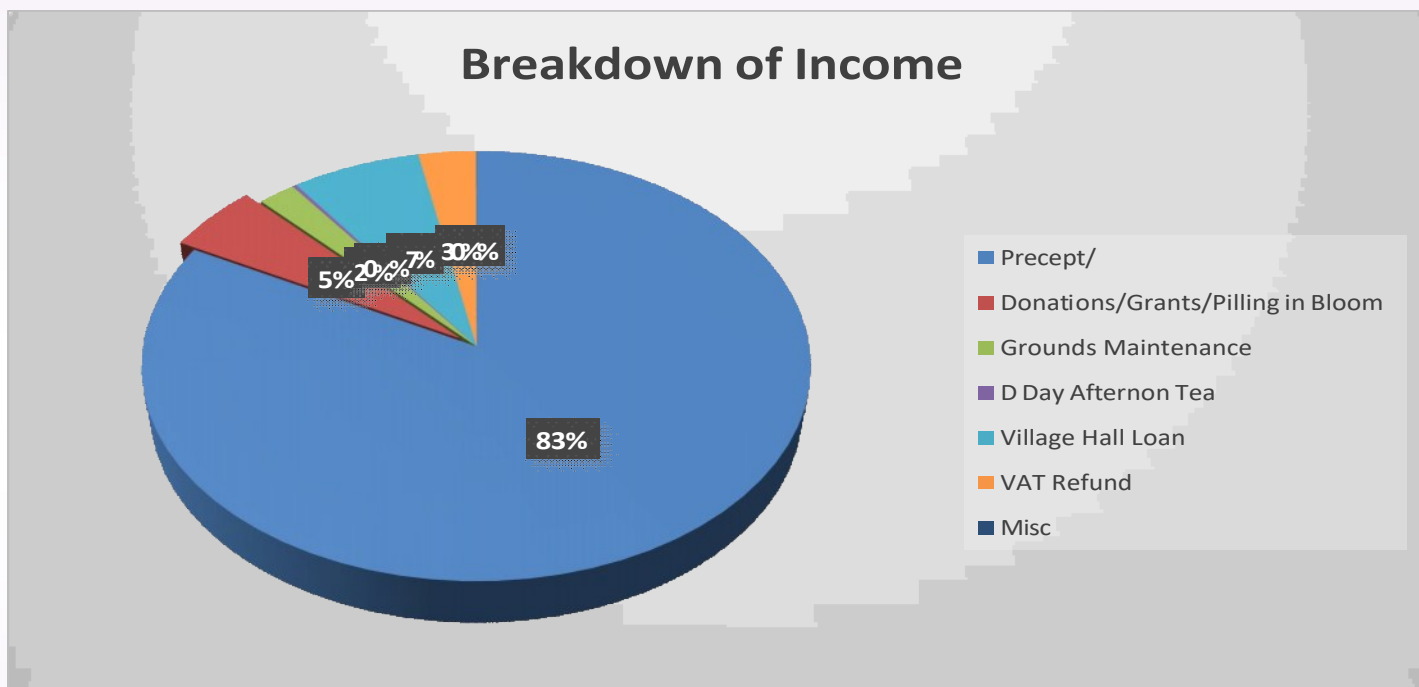
Report from the Responsible Financial Officer

Carried forward 23/24:

Unity Trust Bank	£ 6,593.38
Furness Building Society	£84,451.01
Redwood Savings A/c	
	<hr/>
	£91,044.39

Year end: 24/25

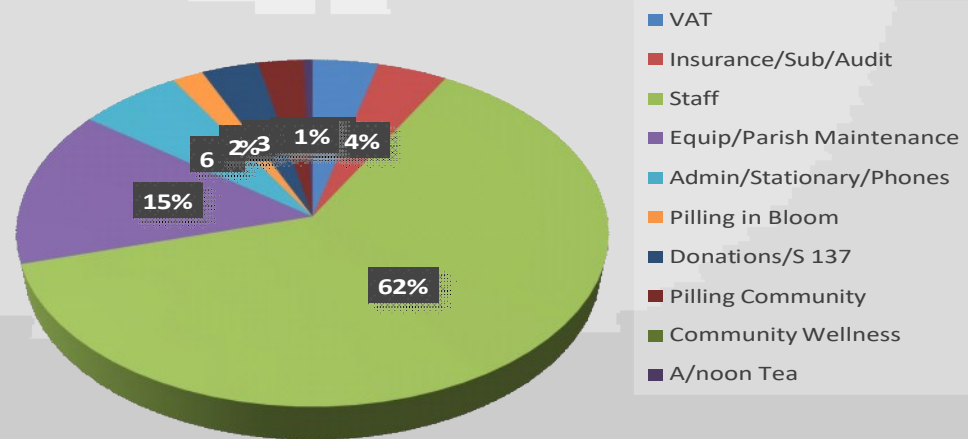
£ 8,537.47
£ 84,488.51
£ 1,000.00
<hr/>
£ 94,023.15



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

Report from Responsible Financial Officer

Breakdown of 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%

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.

Julia Brewer
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Pilling Flooding & Drainage



It is hard to imagine the issue of flooding since we have been experiencing an abnormally long period of dry weather!

However, the issue is never far from the minds of farmers and villagers in Pilling and the Parish Council is actively involved in working with external agencies regarding some of the issues within Pilling. Cllr Alf Whiteside has taken these pictures to demonstrate some of the current issues.

The pictures above are of the flood gates, which you can clearly see are warped and need replacing. Work is ongoing with this.

The picture below is of the Cllr N Cookson who is stood on the marsh and clearly highlights how much the marsh has grown in height due to silt deposits since 1982, and therefore exacerbating the flooding issue inland.



Pilling Flooding & Drainage

Our Future Coast at Fluke Hall Updates

It was great to see so many local farmers at the event on the 6 November. It was a fantastic opportunity to share our Our Future Coast offer of a free farm visit and soil assessment. It was also brilliant to hear from experts, like Innes from ADA, on the benefits of better water management in the area. OFC have been busy since, connecting with the community:

Marcus and Louisa have contacted all the farmers who expressed interest in a free, Our Future Coast farm assessment

Many farmers have already been visited and a farm assessment undertaken
Conversations have continued with our site partners including Pilling Parish Council, Natural England and Environment Agency

Nicola and Marcus arranged for a small group of farmers to visit Winmarleigh Carbon Farm to look at the pioneering work being undertaken by Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

OFC invited the farming community to attend another event at Winmarleigh Carbon Farm, this time run by Manchester Metropolitan University. It was great to see some familiar faces there

Future work and events

OFC are looking to get started a regular farmer's meeting, the first meeting will be towards the end of May/beginning of June-this will be to share information, new updates on the project and on funding for sustainable farming methods. This is a great opportunity to come together, discuss important issues, connect and importantly have a free feed on us. Do look out for more information on this!

Nicola Parkinson

(Pronouns: She/her/hers [Find out why I use pronouns here.](#))

Our Future Coast Engagement Officer

Phone: 07935702735



The Wildlife Trust for
**Lancashire
Manchester &
North Merseyside**

Working for nature's recovery

Show your support



PILLING COMMUNITY ACTION



Initially funded by the National Lottery PCA is a community led initiative bringing free and low-cost creative and healthy activities to Pilling.

The Parish Council now funds and supports community events in the village and uses 'pillingcommunityaction' Facebook page, leaflets and posters to promote these events. The Facebook page is open for Pilling residents to use to promote their events too.

Pilling Walks.

This year we had 6 interesting walks along the PROWs in Pilling. These were very friendly enjoyable events. We walked each month from May to October led by David Whiteside, a wildlife guide. Our Parish lengthsman, Stan has improved and replaced gates, posts and stiles along the PROWs throughout the year.

Digital drop in

These were 6 free monthly sessions which began in December 2024 with James, an IT expert. He helped residents to use their mobile phones, ipads, laptops etc confidently and effectively. And to use email, order prescriptions, contact family and friends, social media and keep safe online and avoid scammers. The Parish Council has purchased a tablet and laptop for you to use in the Village Hall to try before you make your own purchase.

Our final 'drop in' is May 22nd, there's no need to book just turn up between 10.30 and 12.30 at the Village Hall.

Pilling in Bloom

Pilling in Bloom

This group, led by Stan our lengthsman aims to contribute to the protection, upkeep and development of shared spaces in the village. It ensures that the village is attractive and well-stocked throughout the year.

Once again Pilling in Bloom was given a Gold Award by Wyre Borough Council noting the excellent management of our village environment “with friendship and community at its heart” An additional Special award was given for improving and sustaining biodiversity in the village.

We have a very active group of litter pickers ‘Pilling Pickers’ who regularly collect and dispose of litter, and any rubbish in the village. They also report fly tipping. Many thanks to this wonderful group, especially Barry and others who make a huge difference to the village.



Pilling Village Hall



We are very proud to announce the opening of our new children's play area in May 2025. This is a result of three years of fundraising and applying for grants. We are very grateful to the following funders for their contribution;

The Harold Bridges Fund, Lottery Community Fund, Pilling Parish Council and the Moon Trust.

We are also grateful to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts and attended the Hoe Down, Fashion Show and numerous other events to make our improved play facilities a reality. The climbing frame, towers and inclusive roundabout have been very well received by all who use it.

At Pilling Village Hall, we continue to make improvements to our facilities. Recently we have invested in solar panels in order to become more energy efficient. They are proving very effective, generating 36% of our energy use in March and we are now looking into battery storage to make further improvements.

Recently we have begun to extend and improve the parking facilities to enable us to accommodate more cars for large scale events including the Vintage Fair and Coffee Feast.

The café continues to be a popular place to meet up. The café is run by volunteers and all profits from the café go towards the Village Hall. We are always looking for volunteers to help. If you would like any information, please ask at the café. We are a friendly bunch who welcome any help you can offer.

Friday Night Social runs a monthly quiz and bingo session and has recently started a dominoes night. The bar is open every Friday so if you haven't tried it yet, why not come along and give it a go. All profits go back into the development of the hall.

Pilling Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh

I'm Adam Leigh and I've been your ward councillor since May 2023.



Devolution/local government reform - there will be a newly created combined authority in the next few years which means Wyre Council will merge with other councils to create this. It is not currently known what format this will take, and several options are on the table.

Local plan - due to changes in the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024, this will have a significant impact on the Wyre Local Plan. It is expected that we may have to take a share of Blackpool's housing quota along with the 582 houses per year set for Wyre. Blackpool do not have sufficient space to achieve their target. There will be another public consultation process for the emerging local plan, dates will be provided in due course.

Planning - if anyone has a planning concern, this can be reported online at www.wyre.gov.uk planning enforcement - making a complaint. All reports are treated in the strictest of confidence.

Smallwood Hey Road - please continue to report the state of the road on Love Clean Streets App, the more reports the better.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me via email

Adam.Leigh@wyre.gov.uk
07475950471

Be Scam Aware

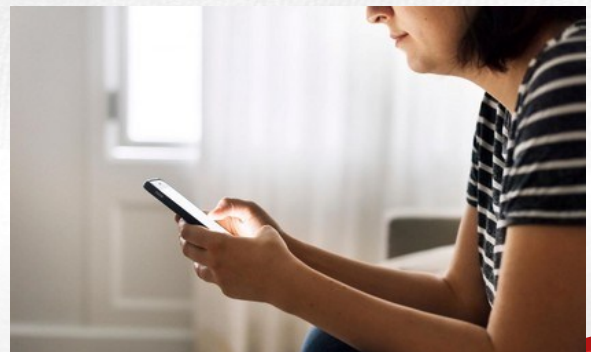
**You are invited to a free and
informative talk by AGE UK on
SCAM AWARENESS.**

We'll offer practical advice

- how to spot a *scam***
- what to do**
- how to stay safe**
-

sponsored by
Pilling Parish Council
07496 726282

Thursday June 5th @10.30



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Pilling Coffee Feast is an annual event that has been held in Pilling in some form for well over 60 years. It is a traditional rural parade followed by afternoon tea and fun activities on Pilling Village Hall field for all the family bringing the community together.

We do as many activities as we can throughout the year to try and ensure that as much on the Coffee Feast day is free or as cheap as possible to ensure everyone is included.

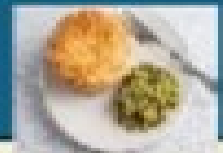
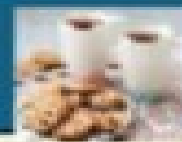
The parade through the village features floats which have been made by the local schools, clubs and also the coffee feast queen plus queens from the other villages.

This year's event is on Saturday 26th July 2025!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Pie and Peas Night 12 June @ Pilling Village Hall

6pm – 8pm



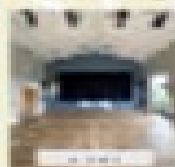
Our Future Coast invite you along to our informal Farmer engagement evening! This is an opportunity to catch up with others, hear about the latest updates, and find out about how the Our Future Coast team can support you.

Speak with our farm advisors! We're here to help with anything farm related, go through Agri-environment options, or just up for a friendly chat.

Please come along for free pie and peas, hot beverages and biscuits! For catering purposes, please let us know if you are planning to attend by 1st June, (with any dietary requirements), by emailing Nicola @ nparkinson@lanoswales.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you can make it! See you all on Thursday 12th June

 **Pilling Village Hall, Taylor's Ln, Pilling, PR3 6AB**



Your Pilling Parish Councillors

Councillor Neil Cookson, (Chair)

Email: cllr.n.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 790875

Councillor Graham C. Curwen, (Vice Chair)

Email: cllr.curwen@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 790502

Councillor Mrs. Sarah Collinge,

Email: cllr.collinge@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 07816764727

Councillor Mrs. Elizabeth Cookson

Email: cllr.e.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 790537

Councillor Paul McWhirter

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Tel: 790995

Councillor Steve Phillpotts

Email: cllr.phillpotts@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 799121

Councillors John C. Savage

Email: cllr.savage@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 790707

Councillor Alf Whiteside,

Email;: cllr.whiteside@piling-pc.gov.uk

Tel. 790700

Councillor Dave Ponton

Email: cllr.ponton@pilling-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07786 373273

WYRE COUNCILLOR FOR PILLING AND WINMARLEIGH

Cllr. Adam Leigh, Adam.Leigh@wyre.gov.uk

Pool Barn, Ridgy Pool Farm, Skitham Lane Pilling

PR3 6BD Tel: 07475950471

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR WYRE RURAL CENTRAL

Cllr. Matthew Salter, matthew.salter@lancashire.gov.uk

29, Woburn Way, Cloughton-On-Brock, PR3 0QF Tel: 07803
723 958

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR LANCASTER AND WYRE

Cat Smith, MP cat.smith.mp@parliament.uk

47 Scotforth Road, Lancaster. LA1 4SA

TEL: 0207 219 6001 OR 01253 490 440

Your Parish Council Office

Parish Council Office

Your Parish Council Office is located in the Village Hall on Taylor's Lane and is open to the public on Monday and Wednesday, from 9.30am to 3.00pm

The main telephone number for the Parish Council has changed to 07496 726282. The clerk can also be contacted via email clerk@pilling-pc.gov.uk or by using the contact enquiry form on the website.

Website

The Parish Council has a website where copies of all agenda and minutes plus other news is accessible. www.pilling-pc.gov.uk



Facebook

The Parish Council is now also on Facebook

Please give the page a follow.