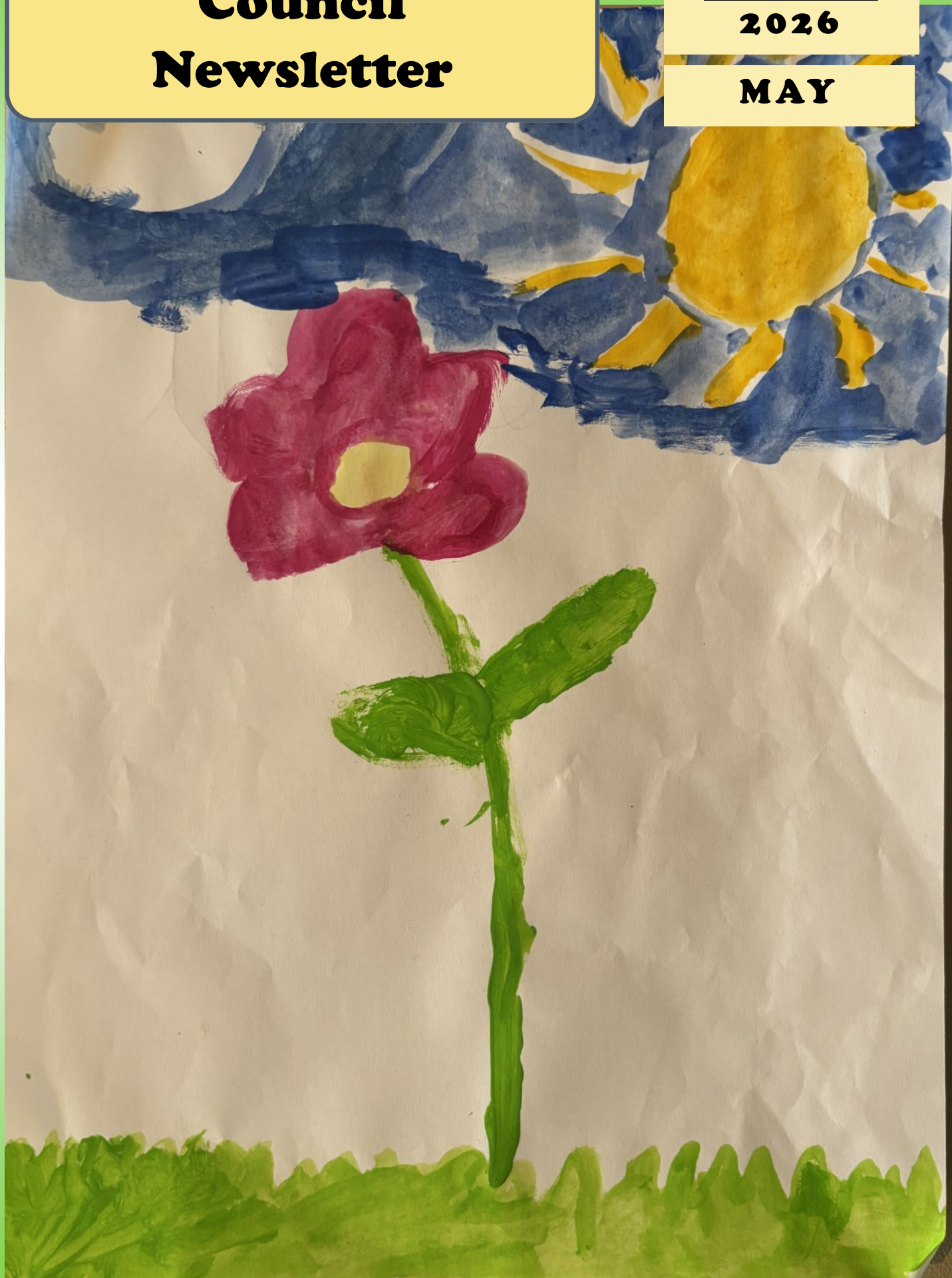


**Pilling Parish  
Council  
Newsletter**

**SPRING  
2026**

**MAY**



## Report from the Chair of Pilling Parish Council

Well as I write, Spring has really arrived, the sun is shining and daffodils and tulips are in bloom, and not before time!!

Also change is in the air again for the Parish Council and our current clerk, Julia Brewer, is moving on to pastures new, and will be replaced by Emma Irvine at the end of May.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julia for all her hard work, she leaves us with our finances in a strong position and we wish her well for the future.

### **Lancashire County Council/Highways**

We continue to lobby Lancashire County Council about the state of the roads. They have published their intended highways plan for the next year and once again Smallwood Hey has not been included, We have written to Lancashire County Council to ask for the rationale behind the decisions and are awaiting a reply.

The ongoing flooding at Damside is also their responsibility but despite repeated requests to fix it, they could not give an adequate response time and therefore the Parish Council took the initiative and employed a local contractor who resolved the problem within a week.

### **Broadfleet Outfall Gates**

Unfortunately, the weather defeated the Environment Agency in their efforts to repair the outfall gates on the Broadfleet at the end of last year. However they have the funding to return to effect the repairs this summer and Cllr Alf Whiteside continues to push for this to be done as soon as possible.

## Report from the Chair of Pilling Parish Council

### **Staffing**

The Parish Lengthsman, Stan Raby, has unfortunately had to take a period of enforced sick leave, and therefore the Parish Council have employed local resident, Chris Hankinson, to cover some of Stan's duties. Councillors have also been covering some of the routine jobs such as emptying the bins, checking defibrillators etc., and Councillor Liz Kiersey is heading up our Pilling in Bloom effort with the help of a small committee.

### **St Williamsgate/Create Homes**

Cllr Dave Ponton continues to strive on behalf of the residents to achieve some resolution to the problems caused by Create Homes going into insolvency, together with both Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council refusing to engage any further regarding the current situation.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I attended the opening of the new nursery at St John's School and was very impressed—it is a great asset for the village.

We have also purchased another defibrillator which will be located in Scronkey. Thanks go to Ben and Sandra Carter for providing the site location.

### **Front Cover**

Lastly the front cover for this edition was drawn by Evie Hall from St John's Primary. Well done Evie!

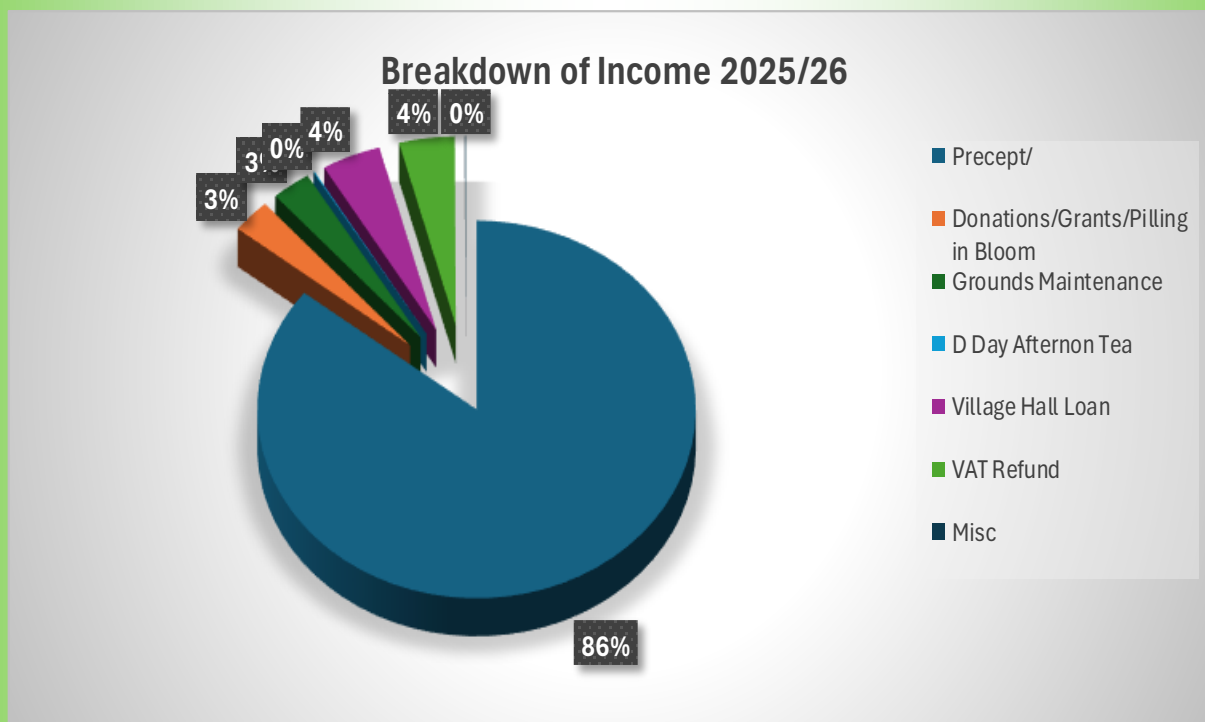
Here's hoping for another long and hot summer...!!

**Cllr Neil Cookson**  
**Chair**

# Report from the Responsible Financial Officer

## Income:

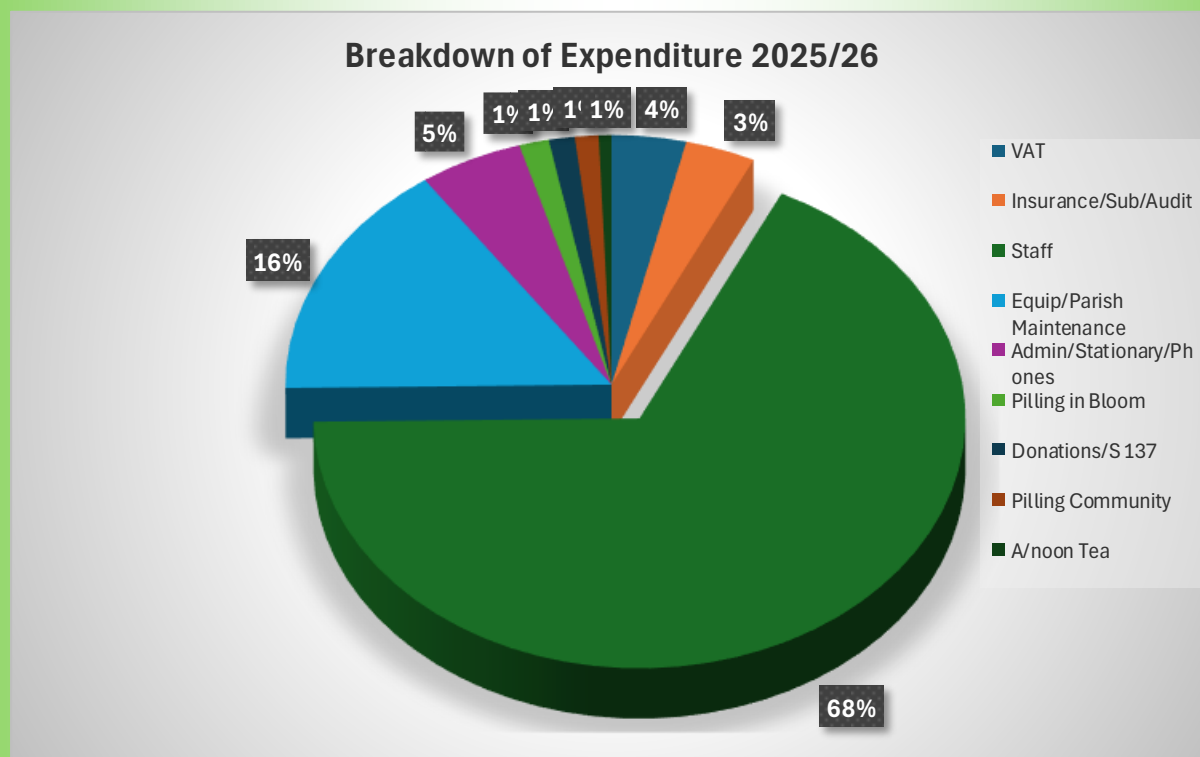
The Council received slightly less overall income than in previous years due to cuts in local authority funding for Public Rights of Way (PROW) and also non-participation in the NW in Bloom competition.



- **Precept: (86%)**
- **Grant Income/Donations (Pilling Bloom) : (3%)**
- **Grounds Maintenance Contracts: (3%)**
- **Loan Repayments (Village Hall): (4%)**
- **VAT: (4%)**

# Report from the Responsible Financial Officer

## Expenditure



- Staffing: (68%)
- Insurance/subscriptions/audit fees (3%)
- Equipment/Parish Maintenance (16%)
- Administration costs: (5%)
- Pilling in Bloom: (1%)
- Pilling Community Action: (1%)
- S137/Donations: 1%
- Afternoon Tea (1%)
- VAT: (4%)

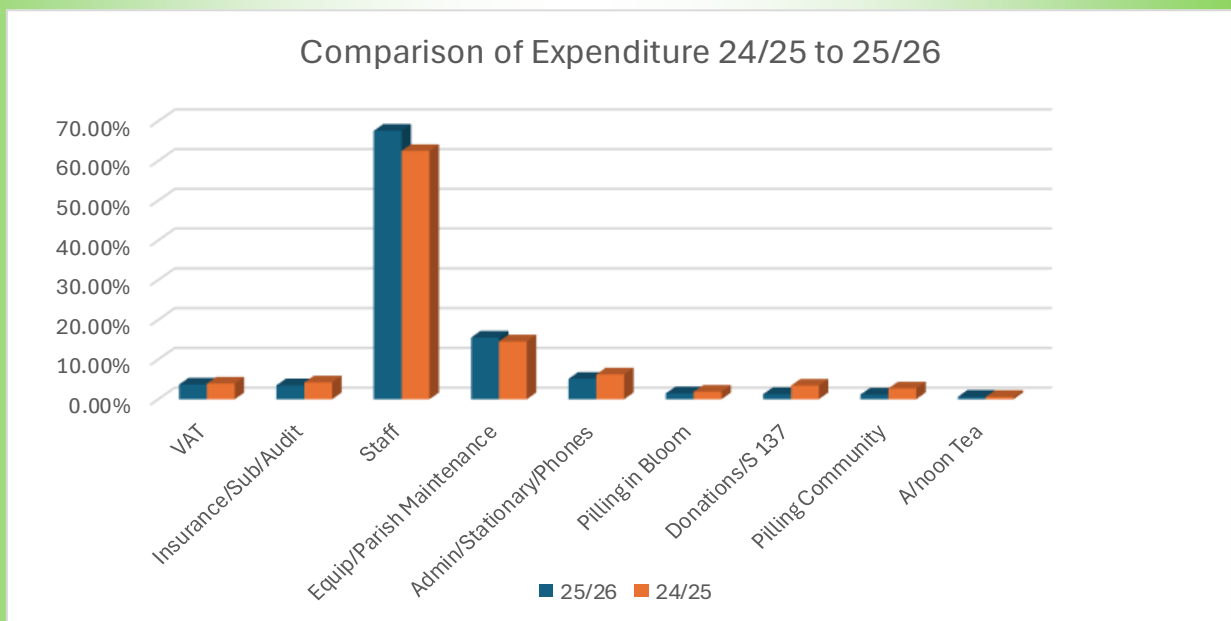
Staffing accounts for the greatest portion of expenditure with the Parish Council employing a part-time clerk on 17 hours and a Parish Lengthsman on 35 hours. Staff costs have also increased slightly with a new pay deal of 3.2% (which was more than originally budgeted) together with the subsequent increase in Employers NI contributions.

# Report from the Responsible Financial Officer

## Comparison with last year

In terms of comparison with previous year, expenditure is very much on a par with 2024/25. However, this year, the Parish Council have invested in purchasing 2 new Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs) which are deployed on Garstang Road and Lancaster Road respectively. Funding was obtained from Grantscape for the purchase of the SPID on Garstang Road (located at Jarvis Carr).

Additionally, the Parish Council have purchased 2 new defibrillators, one to replace the current one located at Pilling Pottery, and the other to be located at Scronkey, taking the number of defibrillators within the parish to 10.



## Looking forward to 26/27

**Precept:** As the Parish Council have undertaken not to increase the precept in the current economic climate but to fund any capital expenditure from Reserves the precept has been maintained at £80,000

**Julia Brewer**

**Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

## Update: St Williamsgate/Create Homes

Currently Create Homes have applied for insolvency. This has been suspended by the Insolvency Commission as complaints have been received about their business practices, unpaid debts and not fulfilling their contracted obligations.

Wyre Council Planning in their response have no reason to take any enforcement action against Create Homes as they have recently (Oct 2025) changed the planning permission on the vacant plot to 4 'first time buyer homes' ie 80% market value with a 24 month time frame for them to be built. Therefore no reason to take enforcement action until the 24 months have elapsed and the properties not built.

Lancashire County Council Highways have stated via their legal team that the unmade and unadopted road remains the responsibility of Create Homes and that with no Sec 38 agreement having been signed and no bond received when the development was approved it is not for LCC to make the road up to an adoptable standard. On the response from LCC it stated that should the Sec 38 agreement not be signed the responsibility for the road will move to the Estate Management Committee.

Wyre Council Planning & LCC Highways will no longer speak not us regarding this matter as they have put their responses in writing via the Head of Planning & the LCC legal team.

## Update: St Williamsgate/Create Homes

Whilst the EMC is registered on Companies House, the only director is Mr Mathison from Create Homes. An attempt was made recently to get a newly moved in resident to sign up to the EMC. This would have enabled Mr Mathison to resign and leave the resident with sole responsibility for the estate upkeep and road as per the LCC letter. Late last year Create also attempted to sell the vacant plot to myself for a nominal fee for 'the estate and Pilling to do with as they please'. Due diligence was exercised and it transpired that had the offer been accepted the estate or whoever purchased or was gifted the plot would still be liable for the building of the 4 units or the £250,000 payment for not building the units. The plot remains the property of Create Homes.

In the first instance planning permission for this development was granted by Wyre Borough Council Planning with conditions and caveats. All the 'full price' properties have been sold and the profits realised by Create Homes. Contracts were drawn up for the Sec 38 agreement but never signed. The responses received from Wyre Planning & LCC do not give any reasons why contracts were not signed and what efforts were made to put the agreement and bonds in place or what, if any, checks were made by planning to ensure the conditions and caveats put in place by them were being met.

I will continue, with the support of residents and the Parish Council, to explore all avenues to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

Cllr David Ponton

# Pilling Village Hall News



We are currently developing plans to make improvements to the Bar area and also create a rear extension to increase much needed storage for the bar, café and hall. We are also planning a new porch at the front of the Hall. This will improve the facilities and make it a more comfortable and inviting space to meet up, while still being accessible for visitors.

We have a host of events planned for the summer months including the Citroen car club meet up on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May, Vintage weekend on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July and of course, the annual Coffee Feast on 25<sup>th</sup> July. August 22<sup>nd</sup> sees the Modified car club meet up and On September 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a Motorcycle festival.

Watch out for Pilling Village show on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Start creating your crafts as this is your time to shine!

As well as these special events, the hall continues to be booked for private functions and regular weekly exercise classes and Badminton clubs. In June we are hosting a twelve hour darts marathon charity event in aid of Prostrate cancer charity. Come along and support this event.

We are supporting the Parish council in their bid to promote Pilling In Bloom. We now have a fantastic new bug hotel on the site and recently a community Orchard has been planted. There are ten fruit trees situated near the bug hotel which will provide a variety of fruit in the coming years. In addition, we are hoping to develop a wildlife garden nearby so watch this space.

We are always looking for volunteers in the café and to help at events. If you would like to join the crew, just get in touch through the website or speak to someone at the café.

# Pilling Flooding & Drainage

## Broadfleet Outfall Farmer Flood Action Group

- David Wilkinson (Chair)
- Martin Lawrenson (Vice Chair)
- Emma Jenkinson (Treasurer)
- Ian Jenkinson
- Alison Metcalf
- Mike Ronson

Attendees

Alf Whiteside

Steve Philpotts



### Main Challenges

Regular maintenance of the Dyke network

Lobbying for better gates or pumps through the sea wall

Clearing and maintaining a channel through the Salt Marsh out to Lune Deeps

Working with other agencies to hold more water within our soil

### Membership of the Group

Currently the group has approx. 30+ members, mainly farmers, however should you wish to join please contact David Wilkinson, Chair, tel: 07890124541.

## Pilling Flooding & Drainage



Following the abortive attempt by the Environment Agency to replace the gates due to the volume of water, the pictures above highlight the amount of water flowing through the gates and the level of the water as it is now.

However the impact of the amount of water did flush the deposits of silt building up in the Salt Marsh.

The group have also obtained a Sward Lifter which can be rented out by group members

- Reduces compaction
- Allows surface water to be retained by the topsoil
- Slows flow of water into the dykes
- Owned by the group
- Available only to members of the group for £1/acre

## Pilling in Bloom

The village is entering the Northwest in Bloom competition this year. We are currently a small but growing team of volunteers. The competition isn't just about horticulture, it's about community involvement and we'd like you to be involved.



So far, we have planted 9 fruit trees to create a community orchard all thanks to the generosity of donors. We have cleared two areas of weed and bramble at the village hall, covered them in cardboard and mulch which has been donated by Phil Lambert and RRS to suppress the weeds. One is going to be a community style garden for all to enjoy, this includes a fabulous new bug hotel kindly made and donated by Les Whiteside. The other area is being planted with various bulbs and wildflower seeds. We've held competitions for all school age children. The scout groups are getting involved filling the bug hotel and little picking and the brownie and guide groups are involved in many initiatives to support us.

# Pilling in Bloom

The gardening volunteers meet one or twice a week, weeding and preparing areas around the village ready for planting.

We currently have a plant drop in operation for any gardeners out there who have spare plants or cuttings they would like to donate. So far, we've had a couple of gooseberry bushes donated and many more plants promised which is very exciting.

Bonnie Winfield and her helpers are busy crocheting flowers and butterflies for post box toppers and decorations around the village.

Pilling nursing home residents are colouring flower pictures which we will display on judging day.

We have secured grant funding for village rainwater harvesting initiatives including water butts for residents on a first come first served basis, please get in touch if you'd like to be added to the list for a water butt or if there is a planter near you that you can help water.

The Parish Council has led a litter pick with village volunteers, we will be holding another nearer the time of the competition.

Local businesses have been approached to see how they can help, if we've not got round to you yet, please contact us.

Hopefully the above has shown you there are many ways you can get involved in helping the village 'In Bloom' initiative even if you aren't a gardener. Please follow the Pilling Community Action Facebook page to keep informed of what's happening. This is very much a community initiative and the more people doing their bit will benefit us all.

If you'd like to get involved in any way with the initiative, please contact [cllr.kiersey@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kiersey@pilling-pc.gov.uk)



# HARVEST RAINWATER

**MAKE A LOCAL IMPACT**

**Free Water Butts to Pilling Residents Only**



## Ecological Benefits

- Capture natural rainfall to reduce pressure on treated water
- Support greener gardens and healthier local ecosystems

## Economic Benefits

- Cut down on mains water use
- Water butts are low-cost, low-maintenance, and deliver long-term savings

## Flood Prevention

- Storing rainwater slows the flow into drains
- Every water butt helps reduce surface-water flooding risk in our community

CLLr Liz Kiersey | Mobile: 07519650142 | Email: [cll.r.kiersey@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cll.r.kiersey@pilling-pc.gov.uk)

# PILLING COMMUNITY ACTION



On Saturday 21st April, Cllr Kiersey and members of the Parish Council along with other volunteers arranged a Litter Pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean for 2026.



# Girlguiding in Pilling



Girlguiding in Pilling has provided a Girls only space continuously for over fifty years. Even Covid didn't stop us as we met online!

We have three units, starting with Rainbows who can join at 4, going on to Brownies at 7 and Guides at 10. Numbers on roll fluctuate according to the numbers of girls in the village but at present we have healthy numbers in all our units and Guides, in particular, are thriving with 17 enrolled and meeting up weekly, showing that teens don't spend all their time at home on their phones!

The leaders and Young Leaders make a significant contribution to the success of our units. They give up their time to attend trainings and hold weekly meetings, making them lively and interesting. We adhere to the Girlguiding programme and keep up to date with changes, attend District events outside the village and even manage a trip or two, although the cost of transport is an issue.

We are proud of all our members who show up each week in uniform to work towards badges and contribute to village life. At present the units are involved with Pilling In Bloom, helping to grow plants, keep our village tidy and support the efforts to improve our local environment.

We are always looking for ways in which we can help. Last year, the Guides helped to serve the Remembrance Day lunch, alongside the Scouts. It was great to see them in their uniforms, giving up their Sunday to do this and their efforts were really appreciated by the fifty or so people who attended.

We are very grateful to Pilling Methodist Chapel who provide us with an excellent meeting space. They always make us welcome, are generous with heating in winter and put up with our occasional mess! They spend a great deal of time ensuring that we are well looked after.

We would like to continue to provide Girlguiding in the future and are always looking for volunteers to help on an occasional or more permanent basis. So if you want to know any more, just get in touch with one of the leaders.

Katrina Bell

# The role of your Parish Council

## The Role of Parish Councils

There are three tiers of Local Government in Pilling - County Council, District (or Borough) Council, and Parish Council. Each tier has distinct responsibilities and works together to serve the needs of residents.

Parish Councils represent the first tier of local government - the level closest to the community.

## Local Authorities - Who Does What?

### Parish Councils - Tier 1

They provide valuable local insight and are increasingly taking on more community-focused responsibilities. These can include:

- ◆ Supporting local events and community groups
- ◆ Managing assets such as community centres, play areas, and noticeboards
- ◆ Reporting local issues like potholes, littering, and dog fouling
- ◆ Advocating for the needs and interests of residents to higher-tier authorities

They play an essential role in making their communities better places to live, work, and visit.

### District Councils - Tier 2

Pilling Parish Council comes under Wyre Council who has responsibility for:

- ◆ Collection of council tax and business rates
- ◆ Refuse, recycling, and litter collection
- ◆ Housing services and homelessness support
- ◆ Planning applications and local development
- ◆ Environmental health, including noise and animal nuisances
- ◆ Maintenance of parks, play areas, and open spaces
- ◆ Management of allotments

# The role of your Parish Council

## County Councils - Tier 3

Pilling Parish Council comes under Lancashire County Council who have responsibility for:

- Children, education, and families
- Health and social care
- Transport and travel
- Roads, potholes, repairs, and gritting
- Recycling centres
- Fire and public safety
- Flooding
- Libraries and archives
- Trading standards
- Births, marriages, and deaths

## Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire—What does it mean for you?

Local government in Lancashire is set for major change. The Government plans to abolish the current two-tier system of 15 councils and replace it with new unitary authorities that will deliver all local services. This process, known as Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), aims to simplify and streamline how services are provided.

The government's aims are to:

- Make councils more efficient and financially stable
- Improve service quality and accountability
- Give more power to local communities

Lancashire has submitted its proposals to Government on 28 November 2025, outlining potential options for creating new unitary authorities.

# Headlines from Wyre Council



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

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me via email  
**Adam.Leigh@wyre.gov.uk**

**0745950471**

## **Wyre Council confirms way forward agreed to keep Fleetwood–Knott End Ferry running**

Wyre Council is pleased to announce that a way forward has been agreed to allow the Fleetwood–Knott End ferry service, following constructive discussions with the current operator this week.

## **Wyre Council takes decisive action to clamp down on fly tipping**

Anyone caught illegally dumping waste in the borough now faces a fixed penalty notice of up to £1,000, with a reduced rate of £600 if paid within 10 days.

## **Crisis and Resilience Fund**

Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is a new three-year scheme funded by the UK government launching on 1 April 2026.

## **Help with Heating Oil**

Help is available to those low income households who are struggling to afford heating oil. Priority will be given  
<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/xfp/form/661> to apply.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Over 60s Annual Parish Lunch

to be held in  
Pilling Village Hall  
on

Friday June 12th 2026 12 for 12.30pm  
Entertainment The Barn Owls. and  
Organist Alan Cookson



The poster features a central circular logo with the text 'PILLING COFFEE FEAST' and 'LAST SATURDAY IN JULY EVERY YEAR' above 'FAMILY FUN DAY'. The background shows a collage of festival activities like a tractor, a car, and people. The text below the logo reads: 'PILLING COFFEE FEAST KING OR QUEEN NEEDED', 'Calling All Young Royals!', 'We are looking to find our new Pilling Coffee Feast King or Queen and retinue to represent the village for 2026 - 2027.', 'If you have a child / children who would like to be put forward to be in the ballot for King or Queen or to be part of the retinue, please either: Email us - pillingcoffeefeast@gmail.com OR Send Us a message on Facebook', 'Closing date for applications is - Sunday 29th March 2026', and 'King or Queen - Must be in Year 5 or above Retinue (boys & girls) - Open to all primary school ages'.

**PILLING COFFEE FEAST KING OR QUEEN NEEDED**

**Calling All Young Royals!**

We are looking to find our new Pilling Coffee Feast King or Queen and retinue to represent the village for 2026 - 2027.

If you have a child / children who would like to be put forward to be in the ballot for King or Queen or to be part of the retinue, please either:  
Email us - [pillingcoffeefeast@gmail.com](mailto:pillingcoffeefeast@gmail.com) OR Send Us a message on Facebook

**Closing date for applications is - Sunday 29th March 2026**

★ King or Queen - Must be in Year 5 or above ★ Retinue (boys & girls) - Open to all primary school ages ★

# Your Pilling Parish Councillors

***Councillor Neil Cookson, (Chair)***

Email: [cldr.n.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.n.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel. 790875

***Councillor Graham C. Curwen, (Vice Chair)***

Email: [cldr.curwen@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.curwen@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel. 790502

***Councillor Mrs. Elizabeth Cookson***

Email: [cldr.e.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.e.cookson@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel. 790537

***Councillor Paul McWhirter***

Email: [cldr.mcwhirter@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.mcwhirter@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel: 07828 236275

***Councillor Steve Phillpotts***

Email: [cldr.phillpotts@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.phillpotts@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel. 799121

***Councillors John C. Savage***

Email: [cldr.savage@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.savage@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel. 790707

***Councillor Alf Whiteside,***

Email;: [cldr.whiteside@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.whiteside@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel. 07778411310

***Councillor Dave Ponton***

Email: [cldr.ponton@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.ponton@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel: 07786 373273

***Councillor Lisa Stanger***

Email: [cldr.stanger@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.stanger@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel: 07415 194832

***Councillor Liz Kiersey***

Email: [cldr.kiersey@pilling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.kiersey@pilling-pc.gov.uk) Tel.: 07519650142

# Your Councillors and Parish Council Office

## WYRE COUNCILLOR FOR PILLING

**CLLR. ADAM LEIGH,**

*[Adam.Leigh@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Leigh@wyre.gov.uk)*

Tel: 07475950471

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR

## WYRE RURAL CENTRAL

**Cllr. Matthew Salter,**

*[matthew.salter@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.salter@lancashire.gov.uk)*

Tel: 07803 723 958

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR LANCASTER AND WYRE

**Cat Smith, MP** *[cat.smith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:cat.smith.mp@parliament.uk)*

TEL: 0207 219 6001 OR 01253 490 440.

## 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 10.00am 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](mailto: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](http://www.pilling-pc.gov.uk)

To report Highways issues, please contact Lancashire County Council via their website: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/> <<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>> or use the 'Love Clean Streets App' which can be downloaded onto mobile devices such as phones and tablets. For more information on the 'Love Clean Streets' app, please visit the website: <https://lovecleanstreets.info/report> <<https://lovecleanstreets.info/report>> The following Highways issues can be reported via these services:

- \* Potholes
- \* Street lights
- \* Traffic lights
- \* Damaged signs
- \* Flooding or blocked drains
- \* Vegetation and trees (Grass verge cutting, hedge pruning, tree maintenance and tree removal)
- \* Damaged bus stop/shelter
- \* Collapsed road
- \* Missing manhole cover
- \* Diesel/oil spillage
- \* Road cleaning
- \* Road marking
- \* Obstruction on the road
- \* Tripping hazard
- \* Bollards
- \* Public Rights of Ways (such as footpaths and byways)
- \* Gritting

You can also call Lancashire County Council Highways Department on : 0300 123 6780

### **Speeding Vehicles**

For any isolated but dangerous incidents of speeding, please contact the Police on their non-emergency number: 101

Speeding incidents need to be reported to the Lancashire Constabulary Road Safety Partnership via their website:

[https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/?fbclid=IwAR1XqY5xluWbo4WhkEnnqF0b9bpPYIGlGThpsghyRQl0WFyufRevvMXx\\_ds](https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/?fbclid=IwAR1XqY5xluWbo4WhkEnnqF0b9bpPYIGlGThpsghyRQl0WFyufRevvMXx_ds) <[https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/?fbclid=IwAR1XqY5xluWbo4WhkEnnqF0b9bpPYIGlGThpsghyRQl0WFyufRevvMXx\\_ds](https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/?fbclid=IwAR1XqY5xluWbo4WhkEnnqF0b9bpPYIGlGThpsghyRQl0WFyufRevvMXx_ds)>