



WALDRINGFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**CLERK & RFO REPORT
APRIL 2025**

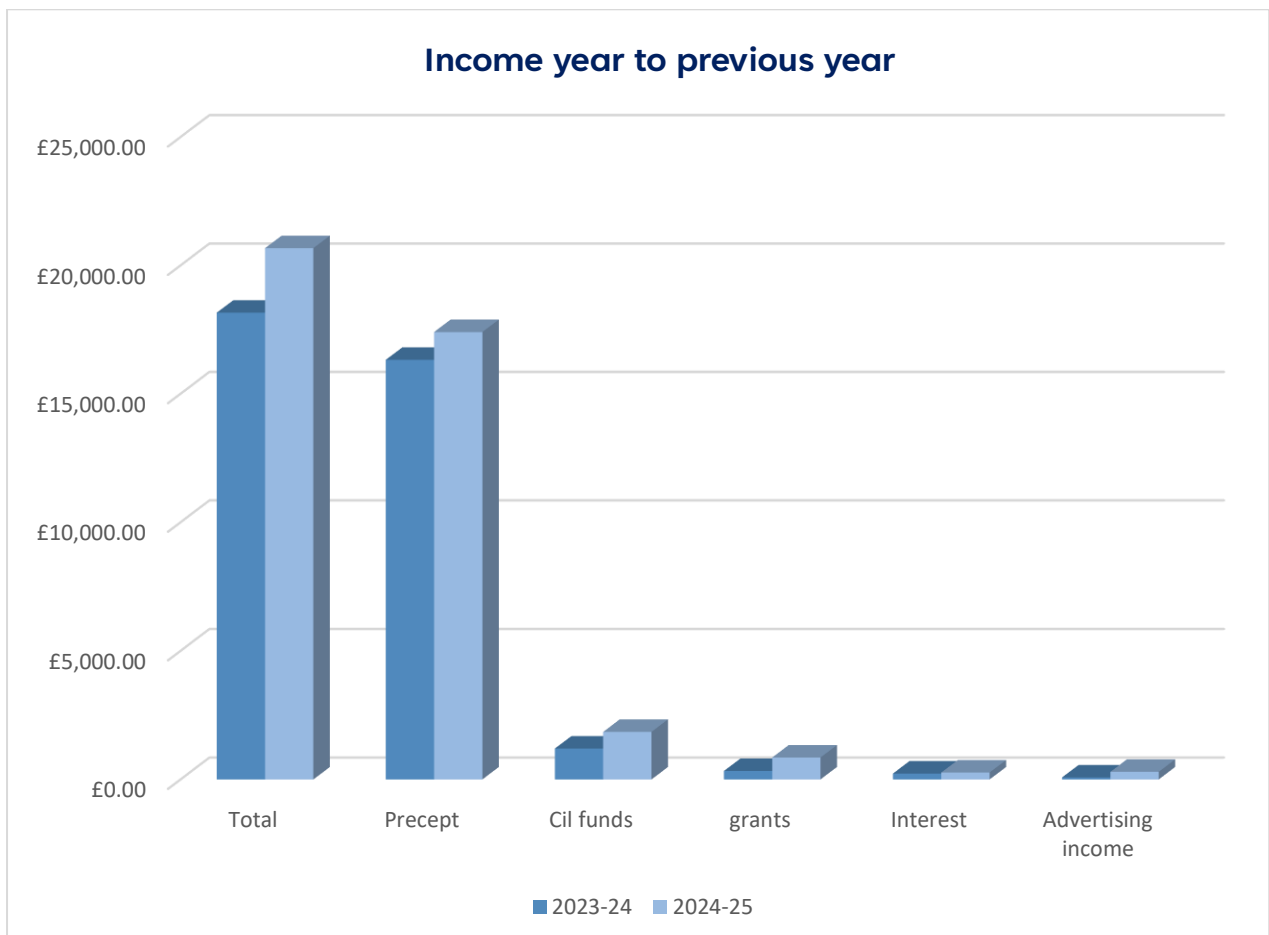
INCOME 2024-25

This financial year was a relatively uneventful year financially. The Council remained vigilant in its monitoring of spending, and had no major repairs or emergency outgoings. The Council has kept to budget in most areas, with increased costs which were budgeted for.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds of £1,848.27 were received and £1,296.05 were carried over from the previous financial year, with total receipts of £18,822.13 received this year. Bank interest on the savings account was up slightly, and we have seen an uptick in advertising revenue to support the continued publication of our newsletter. We also received an annual grant from SCC towards the annual maintenance of the footpaths. Last year we carried over grant funding for the warm welcome provision which is why there is an increase in grant funding this year.

Snapshot of Income received

Precept	£17,404.24
Grants	£852.80
CIL payments	£1,848.27
Advertising Income	£296.00



EXPENDITURE 2024-25

Expenditures this year were unremarkable except for inflationary increases, and the council delivered to budget in the main. Some savings were achieved and these will be folded through to the next financial year, where significant expenditure on the repair and rejuvenation of the Fort Area of the playing field (which sadly reached the end of its serviceable life in February) will be undertaken.

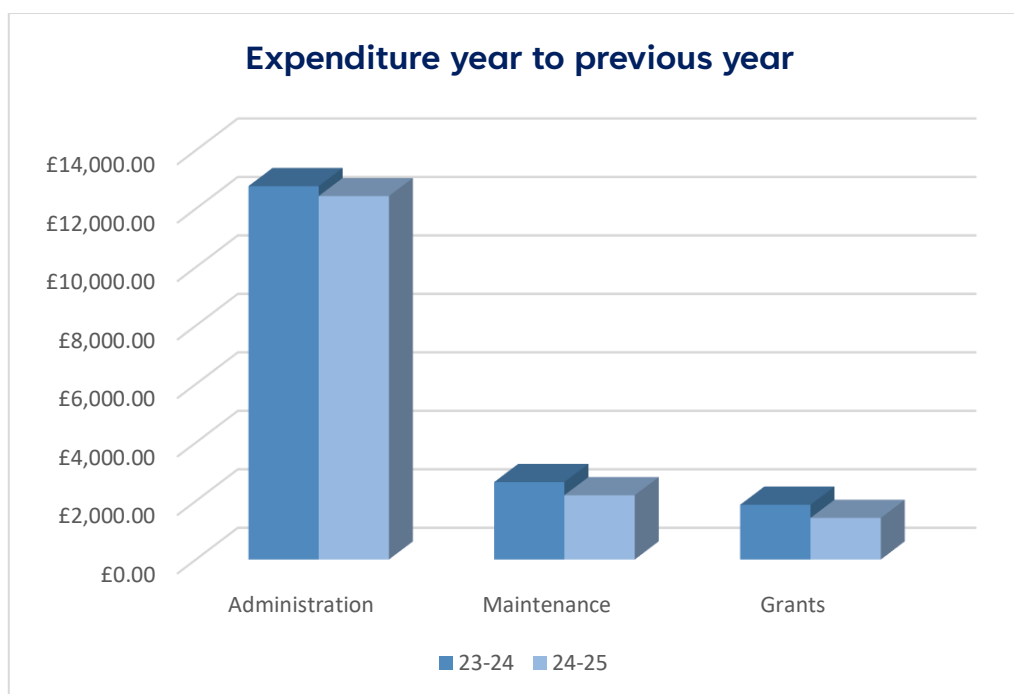
Snapshot of Expenditures

Budget area	Budgeted	Actual
Administration	£13,863.54	£12,432.55
Playing fields and maintenance	£3,835.00	£2,200.82
Community Grants	£2,125.00	£1,425.00

Administration costs comprise the operational support for the Council. Salaries, training costs, office equipment and supplies, audit fees, professional body memberships, required registration fees, insurance costs and website hosting and software costs. Last year there were additional expenses for training that allowed this budget to be slightly reduced, however, as residents can appreciate, there have been increases in costs from suppliers that, while budgeted for and anticipated, have shown a steady increase.

Playing field and maintenance comprise expenses related to the maintenance of Council assets and property. This includes repairs and/or refurbishment of Council assets, grass cutting, maintenance of the AEDs (defibrillators) and bin and signage replacement. These are examples – it is not an exhaustive list. This year we have not incurred expenses to repair certain play items on the playing field as they require replacement.

Grants to the Community are funds allocated to the Grant Awarding Policy funding that is budgeted for annually. This year the Council awarded grants to the Waldringfield Wildlife Group, the Church Field Trust, Greener Waldringfield and All Saints Church.



Year end (31 March 2025) – Closing Balances

Unity Trust (Operating Account)	£15,008.99
Suffolk Building Society (Savings Account)	£8,316.58
Total	£23,325.57

2025-26 BUDGETING AND PRECEPT

This year's budgeting process remained a difficult one. Increases from suppliers and overall costs put downward pressure on the budget and reserves from last year. The Council has long run reserves at very tight levels putting pressure on its ability to meet challenges of large expenditures. The Council has worked hard on managing expenses to increase the levels of operational reserves, and has achieved this over the past three years, where this year we will see a 40% operational reserve.

Additional challenges are - for the first time, the Council will also be drawn into additional employment costs due to the October budget statement. There are no government supports for Parish Councils with this additional, and proportionately high tax. Also to be expected this year - anticipated new expenditures for the refurbishment of the wooden fort will also challenge reserves, as it remains to be seen how much grant funding the Council will be successful in achieving.

The Council has long been mindful of increases to Precept. This year, the Council opted for a modest 2.7% increase, which will in part be a contribution towards the large expenditure with the playing field project, and to manage inflationary increases from suppliers.

Below is a budget summary for this financial year:
Increase in Band D Equivalent – 2.7%

Expenditure	
1. Administration	£13,352.5
2. Playing fields and maintenance	£4,893.75
3. Grants to the community	£2,125.00
Total budgeted expenditure	£20,371.25
Income	
1. Precept	£19,683.45
2. Grants and expected CIL	£300.00
3. Advertising and interest	£359.00
Total Budgeted income	£20,371.25
Reserves	
Earmarked Reserves (less above)	£19,126.67
Operational General reserves	£7,942.04
General reserves as a percentage of Precept	40.35%

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Shone-Tribley – Clerk and RFO