



WALDRINGFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**CLERK & RFO REPORT
APRIL 2026**

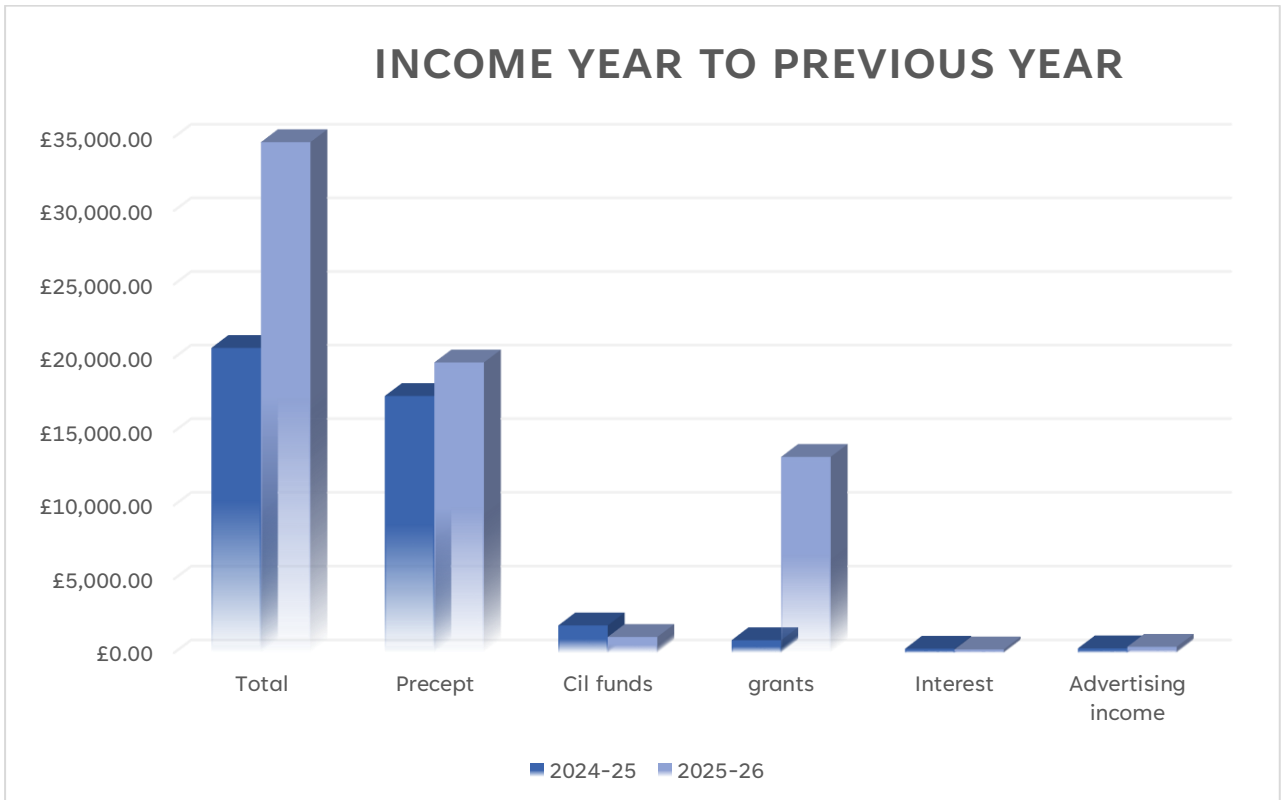
INCOME 2025-26

This financial year the Council undertook a major project to replace some aging wooden structures on the playing field. This was a large undertaking and the Council received a good deal of financial assistance from both our SCC Councillor Patti Mulcahy and the District CIL Play Fund, without which we would not have been able to complete the project.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds of £1,067.30 were received and also contributed to the project. Bank interest on the savings account was down 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, which while does not cover the entire cost – does cover most of the costs. The Council also applied for and received a £670.00 grant from East Suffolk Council to continue the Warm Welcome provision in the winter months.

Snapshot of Income received

Precept	£19,683.45
Grants	£998.80
CIL payments	£1,067.30
Advertising Income	£404.40
Grants – New Equipment	£12,279.00



EXPENDITURE 2025-26

Expenditures this year were reflective of the large investment made in our play area. We also had substantial tree work undertaken to address some of our aging trees and to extend the life of existing ones.

It is also evident that inflation is having an impact on our costs, with increases from most suppliers, and the full impact of the National Insurance increases on employment was evident this year.

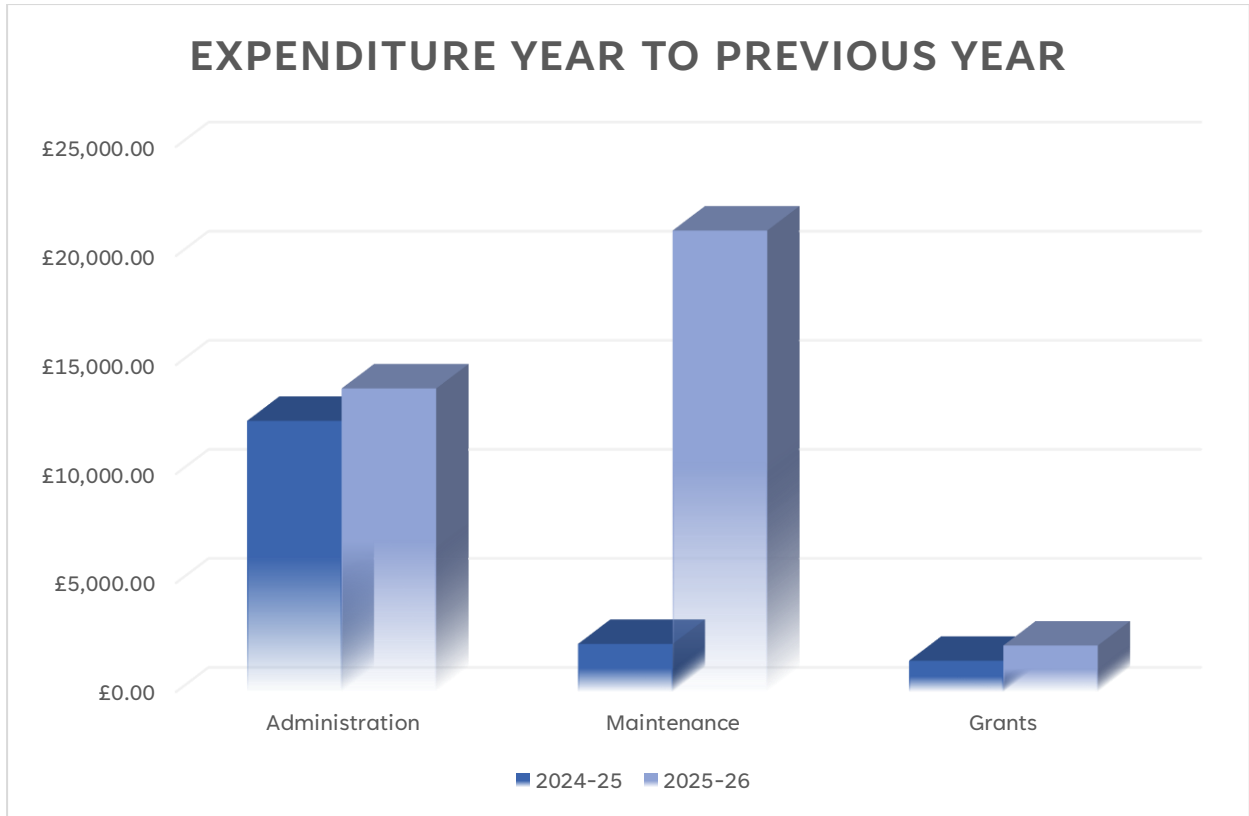
Snapshot of Expenditures

Budget area	Budgeted	Actual
Administration	£14,014.50	£13,916.46
Playing fields and maintenance	£22,673.75	£21,154.95
Community Grants	£2,125.00	£2,125.00

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. New regulatory requirements for the website incurred additional expenses in administration this year – which while budgeted for, were an increase on last year. The addition of NI costs on salaries has likewise had an impact on costs.

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 have incurred the new equipment expenses, in addition to tree work and defibrillator maintenance costs which have seen inflationary increases.

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, All Saints Church and the Waldringfield Sailing Club.



Year end (31 March 2026) – Closing Balances

Unity Trust (Operating Account)	£16,591.86
Suffolk Building Society (Savings Account)	£8,808.80
Total	£25,400.66

2026-27 BUDGETING AND PRECEPT

This year's budgeting process was undertaken in December 2025 and January 26 and reflects the expected continued pressure on expenses. Increases from suppliers and overall costs are put downward pressure on the budget and reserves from last year. The additional expense of an external audit this year is also reflected. The Council has taken pro-active steps to maintain a suitable reserve against inflationary increases and repairs and maintenance costs of its assets.

The Council has long been mindful of increases to Precept. This year, the Council, while met with increasing supplier, contract and employment costs has mitigated the increase to Precept as best possible in an uncertain economic climate.

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

Expenditure	
1. Administration	£16,205.60
2. Playing fields and maintenance	£3,950.00
3. Grants to the community	£2,375.00
Total budgeted expenditure	£22,530.60
Income	
1. Precept	£21,651.8
2. Grants and expected CIL	£150.00
3. Advertising and interest	£400.00
Total Budgeted income	£22,530.60
Reserves	
Earmarked Reserves (less above)	£16,670.00
Operational General reserves	£8,730.66
General reserves as a percentage of Precept	40.32%

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Shone-Tribley – Clerk and RFO