

# PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

## 128<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

### 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025

#### REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL YEAR – 1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

##### Opening Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

£84,829.18

##### Closing Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

£106,926.20

##### Total Receipts throughout the financial year – £162,543.98

Total receipts include the Precept payment of £84,835.00 and £38,463.33 in grants received from GBC which went towards the works to the pond, the resurfacing of the Sandpits car park and the 2 replacement boilers in LPH.

A further £7,650 was received from the War Memorials Trust towards the refurbishment of the 104 year old War Memorial in St Michael & All Angels churchyard which is owned by the Parish Council.

A further £11,751.49 was received by way of Green Fees. This is income received for hiring the Green to fun fairs and events, for displaying advertising banners and for the pitch fee for the Waffle Tram.

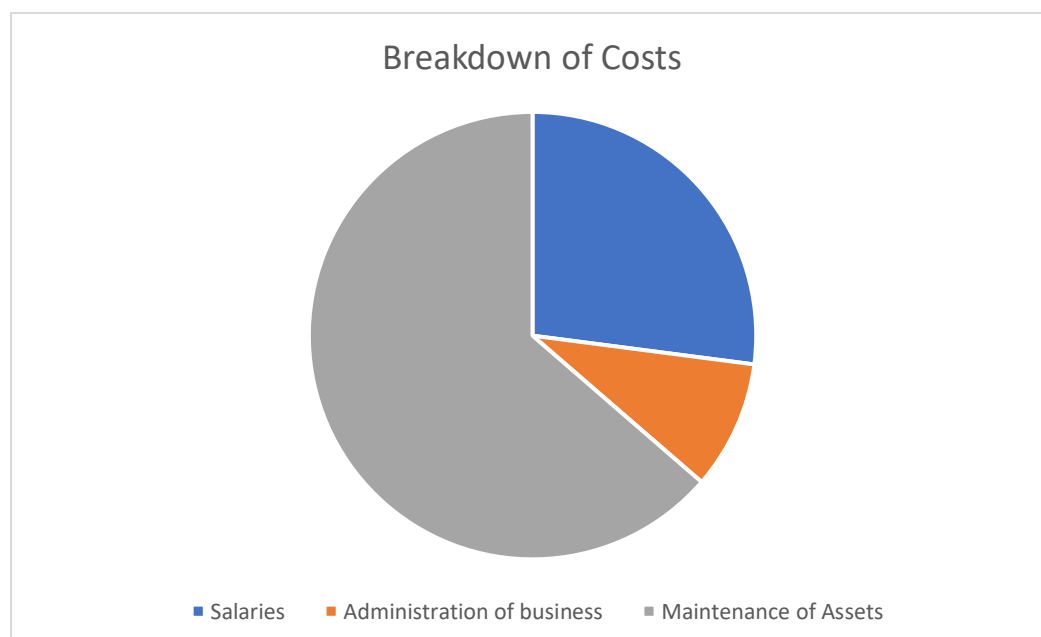
Total Receipts also includes £16,166.18 in reclaimed VAT for the year.

##### Total Expenditure - £140,446.96

Total expenditure includes £33,603.58 in comprehensive staffing costs.

£11,602.04 in administration costs which consists of £4,434.97 in auditing and account fees and subscriptions to governing bodies as well as continuous training sessions for all staff. A further £2,350.42 was spent producing the Pirbright Village Newsletter throughout the year and a further £1,567.48 was spent on the Armed Forces Day celebration in June 2024.

Maintaining the village Green, the playground and associated areas amounted to £15,724.50. A total of £56,392.02 was spent on the 3 projects listed below.



# **PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2024-2025**

## **Pond Re-landscaping – Total Project Cost - £14,415.00**

PPC contribution of £8,532.00 towards project

GBC contribution - £5,883.00

This maintenance project took place in September 2024 when the silt was removed from the pond and spread across the village Green. In the years prior, the silt had built up to such an extent that the fish were dying from a lack of oxygen. PPC commissioned a registered fishery to remove the remaining fish and drain the pond. The silt was harrowed in March and seeded in April 2025. Spreading this nutrient rich silt will improve the village Green. The alternative would have been to have the silt shipped away at an additional cost to residents of £30,000.



## **Sandpits Car park – Total Project Cost - £26,037.05**

PPC and immediate neighbours, Tennis Club and SWT – total contribution - £3,037.05

Cllr Witham (Guildford) – contribution of £14,884.00

Cllr Azad (Woking) – contribution of £8,116.00

This car park is owned by the Parish Council and was originally purchased from SCC to allow for drop off and pick up to parents and parking for the Tennis Club. It was felt that having 2 schools adjacent to each other was causing unbearable congestion in School Lane and this facility would alleviate some of the problem. However, the car park, over time, had become a source of constant expenditure for PPC with the rough surface constantly blocking the drainage channels and causing flooding and pot holes.



**War Memorial - Total Project Cost - £15,940.00 (Including a faculty fee of £330)**

PPC contribution of £1,037.05 towards project

War Memorials Trust contribution - £7,650.00

The Memorial was first unveiled by the Bishop of Guildford on 13<sup>th</sup> August to commemorate 48 local men who fell in the First World War.

The Grade II Pirbright Memorial consists of a finely-carved wooden Calvary cross on a four-step stone plinth. At the base, there are four rectangular stone plaques laid horizontally amongst square paving stones. The frontal plaque carries the inscription "GREATER LOVE / HATH NO MAN / THAN THIS THAT / A MAN LAY / DOWN HIS LIFE / FOR HIS FRIENDS" (John 15:13).

In 2020 the Memorial was showing significant signs of wear and tear. It had been repaired in the 1990's but the figure was now missing fingers and the arms were falling off at the shoulders. The tenon holding the figure to the cross had rotted away and the figure was in danger of falling off the cross and smashing to the ground below. The cross itself was rotten at the top and the base and was also in danger of falling.

The War Memorials Trust kindly agreed to a grant of £7,650 towards the project and the Memorial was restored and blessed by the Bishop of Guildford on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024.





### **Armed Forces Day Celebrations 29/06/24 – Total Project Cost - £1,567.48**

An event to celebrate all UK Forces took place on the Green in partnership with the MoD at Pirbright Barracks on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This event was opened by the Mayor of Guildford and other high ranking dignitaries from Pirbright ATC.

There will be no Armed Forces Day celebration in June 2025 due to the silt on the Green but the event will return in June 2026, once again in partnership with Pirbright ATC.



# **THE YEAR AHEAD**

## **Financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

There are currently no major projects planned for the Financial Year 2025-2026.

Working with central Government to assist in the devolution process will feature widely in 2025/26 with a new Unitary Authority scheduled to be shadowing the existing system in 2027.

This has enabled the Parish Council to keep the Precept low (3.5% increase) and focus of its main areas of responsibility which are as follows;

- maintaining the village Green areas, the pond and the sports fields
- maintaining the children's playground to provide a safe and enjoyable space
- maintain the trees which fall under its responsibility
- maintain the car parks that fall under its responsibility and continue to provide them free of charge
- maintain the memorial benches and trees around the village Green
- consider and comment on all Planning Applications in the Parish
- maintain the historic War Memorial
- act as Sole Managing Trustee to Lord Pirbright's Hall