

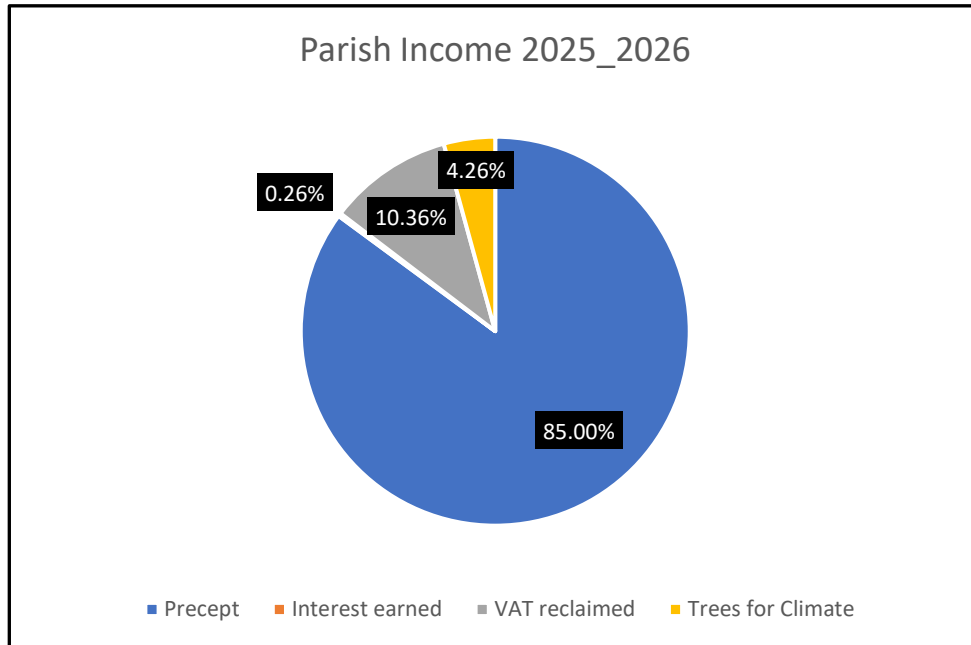
# COVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual report

**1 April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

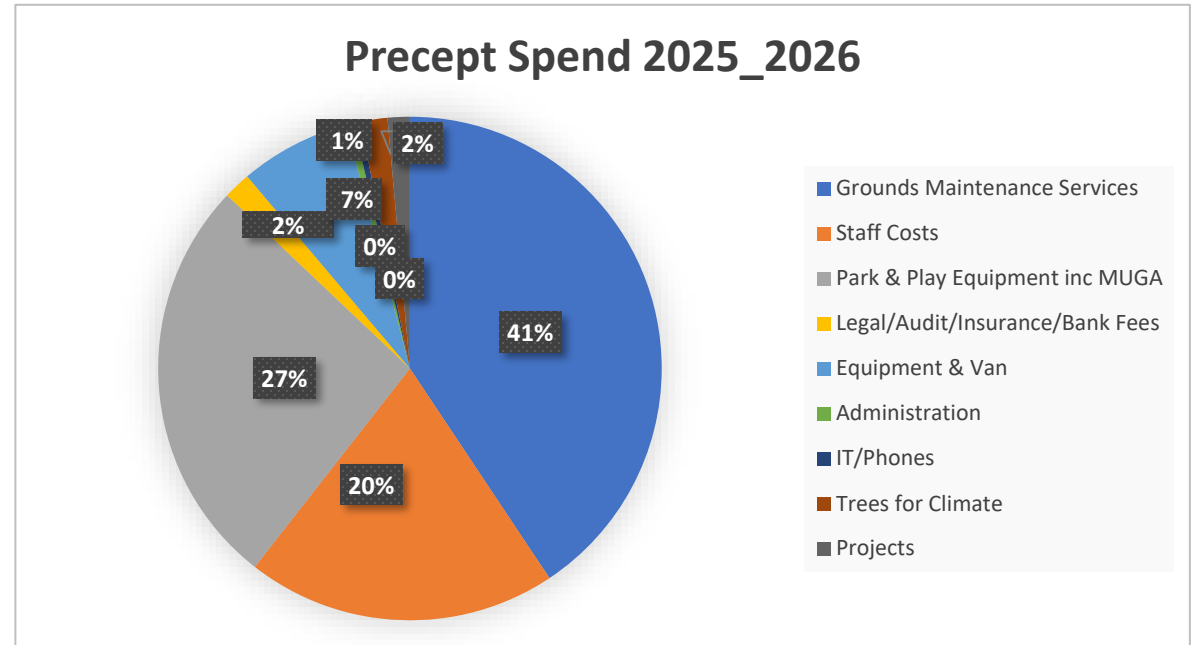
# Financial information

- Income



Income - £201,640.98

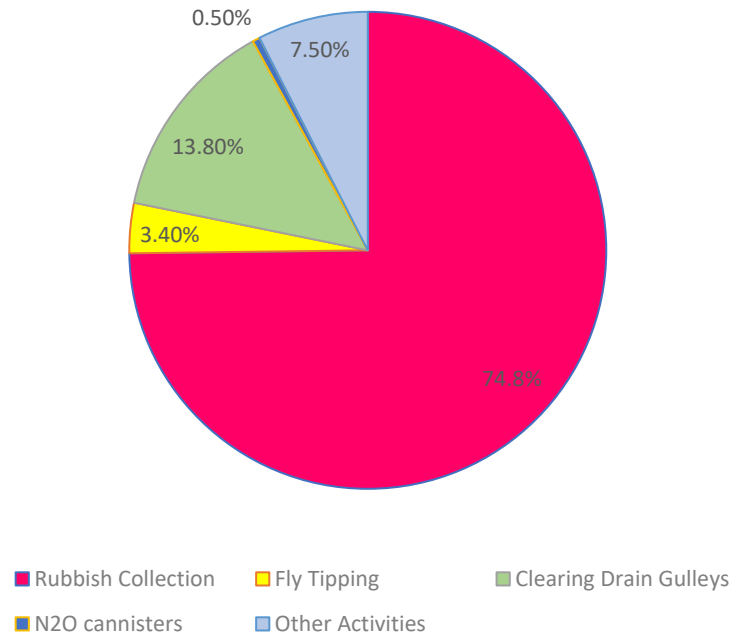
- Expenditure



Expenditure - £241,185.82

# Maintenance Team – Activities

Engineer Summary Apr 2025\_ Mar 2026



- 2667 sacks (20 tonnes) of litter removed, an increase of 6.4% on 2024-25
- 120 instances of fly tipping dealt with, an 8% increase on 2024-25
- 16 N2O canisters removed
- 429 drain gulleys cleared
- Dorcan Stream checked for blockages 52 times during the year
- 6 Supermarket trolleys returned to the store, a reduction of 60% on 2024 -25
- Painted 6 items of adult exercise equipment
- 125 instances of epicormic growth removed

# Maintenance Team - Parks and play equipment

- Daily safety checks, 6 days out of 7 of all play and exercise equipment
- Monthly safety inspection of all play and exercise equipment
- Annual safety inspection carried out by ROSPA
- Repair and maintenance as required



# Grounds Maintenance Services Contract

- A new 3-year Contract was awarded to our current Grounds Maintenance Contractor from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 comprising of:
- 16 grass cuts a year
- 2 hedge cuts a year
- 16 dog bins to be emptied every week
- Weed spraying of the kerb lines and footpaths twice a year
- Road sweeping twice a year
- Monthly maintenance of Covingham Square crescent
- Additional works as and when required



Projects completed in  
2025 -26

# The new MUGA

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# Natural Flood Alleviation area in Covingham Park

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In partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust a mix of trees, plants and shrubs have been planted that were chosen specifically to mitigate the potential flooding risk in that corner. The grass in between the plantings will not be cut as regularly as the rest of the park, with the aim of increasing biodiversity and nature..



# New Parish Van

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At the annual service and MOT, it became clear that the old van would not last another 12 months. It was also in need of 4 new tyres before the winter, so the decision was made to purchase a new one. It has now been in service for 6 months and the Maintenance Engineers are very happy with it.



# Noticeboards

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The Noticeboards in Covingham Square and Cole Close were upgraded with new boards that enabled the Parish Council to display more information.



# Skatepark Events

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Several skate events were held in Covingham Park during the school holidays. These are always well received and supported by the resident children and parents.

Due to the success these will continue to be held in the school holidays with the next one booked for Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Covingham Skatepark Event

Wednesday 27th May 10.30am - 1.30pm

- > **FREE** Scooter/Skate Workshops
- > **FREE** Tuition
- > **FREE** Hire
- > Competitions, Games, Prizes to be won
- > Ages 5 to 16 years, Parents Welcome



# Other achievements

- Assertion 10 – is a new mandatory requirement in the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability return (AGAR). Lots of work has been carried out behind the scenes to ensure that the Parish Council was as compliant as possible and the website, policies and all documents met the new WCAG 2.2 AA standards.
- Payroll software – The provider we used ceased operations from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. A new package has been sourced for the future.
- Accounts – Accounting guidelines has meant that we have also had to change our accounting methods from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. This has meant purchasing a recognised accounting software package, introducing a totally different method of accounting; i.e. changing from a receipts and payments process to a credit and debit model.

# Dorcan Brook Bank

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Has now been on our watchlist since 2017. We will continue to lobby Swindon Borough Council to stabilise Dorcan Brook bank and reinstate the footpath along St Pauls Drive



# New Clerk /RFO – Laura Cutter

The Parish Council welcomed Laura to the team in November 2025. Laura is a fully qualified Clerk with a wealth of experience, bags of enthusiasm and lots of new ideas.



# The Future

- Election – The Parish Council was subject to an election, as were all Parish Councils in Swindon. As only 10 people completed the nomination process for 15 seats , it was an uncontested election. We look forward to working with the one new Councillor who will be joining us.
- Sadly, we said goodbye to two of our Councillor colleagues who decided not to stand for re-election. Lorraine Sandle, who had been a Councillor for many years and Debbie Kay who joined in October 2021, both decided to stand down. We thank them both for their commitment and hard work over the years, they will be missed.
- As Laura, our new Clerk/RFO is qualified and the current sitting Councillors are all elected, the Parish Council is now able to adopt the General Power of Competence if it so wishes. This will give the Council the opportunity to do other things where there is a not an existing act, subject to complying with the law.

# Want to know more or to talk to us

Email – [clerk@covingham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@covingham-pc.gov.uk)

Telephone – 07401 156254

Website – [www.Covingham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.Covingham-pc.gov.uk)

Find us on Facebook



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Covingham Parish Council website. At the top left is the logo for Covingham Parish Council, featuring a stylized 'C' and the text 'COVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL'. Below the logo is a large banner image of red flowers with the text 'Welcome to Covingham' overlaid. A navigation menu is located below the banner, with items: Home, The Council, Services, Meetings, Documents and Reports, Local Information, and News. Below the navigation menu are three main content sections: 'Information' with a link to the 'Information Page', 'Welcome to Covingham' with a brief description of the website's purpose and meeting schedule, and 'Annual Report' with a link to 'read this report'.



## Covingham Parish Council Community Page >

🔒 Private group · 928 members