

**MINUTES OF THE DISLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 AT DISLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Disley Parish - Notice of Meeting</u></b>  <b>Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Disley Community Centre on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm.</b>  <b>All Disley and Newtown residents are invited to attend.</b>  At a meeting held in pursuance of the above notice (copies having been displayed throughout the Parish) the following business was transacted:</p>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	<p>Cllrs. Pattison (Vice Chair), Bull, Windsor and the locum Parish Clerk.  <b>Members of the public = 22</b>  <b>Start time: 7.00pm</b></p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024</u></b>  The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>To receive a presentation from the warden of St. Mary's Church, David Kidd</u></b>  David Kidd from St. Mary's Church addressed the meeting highlighting that St. Mary's Church was 500 years old in 2024 and that a programme of restoration was in progress to preserve it for the future. Feedback from a recent church survey showed that villagers valued the heritage of St. Mary's even if they were not church-goers. David reported that stage one of the restoration to restore the tower was almost complete and stage two was now planned.  The church have applied for grants and raised funds in the community. David highlighted that the day-to-day costs of running the church came from regular church-goers but this left no money for building restoration and upkeep. David reflected that the church had value to the community beyond its religious aspects such as outreach and the community support it offered.  David said that stage two of the restoration was hoped to be reached before the VAT changes due in 2026 and asked the village for any support it could provide.   Cllr Pattison thanked David for his presentation.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>To receive a presentation from Disley Primary School</u></b>  Jake Nicklin and Becky Adamson, Head and Deputy Head of Disley Primary School brought a contingency of pupils from the Student Parliament (Sophie, year 5, Isabelle, year 4 and Ernest, year 4) to assist with their presentation.  The focus was on social engagement, the well-being of students and staff and community engagement. A request for skills was made, inviting people in the community to share skills with students.  Becky explained that Disley Primary School was committed to reducing the schools carbon footprint by the use of heat pumps and efficiency.  Cllr Pattison asked if she could visit the Student Parliament to get ideas for a new piece of play equipment.   Cllr Pattison thanked Jake, Becky and the Students for their presentation.</p>

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	<p>Alex Swift, Volunteer and Community Manager for Lyme Park kindly provided an overview of the latest developments at Lyme. Alex praised the work of the volunteers working across the parkland, historic buildings and gardens.</p> <p>Alex informed the meeting that the issues of parking and traffic at Lyme were still being addressed and that work was continuing on the Admissions Hut which aims to speed up entry to the park, and aimed to reduce traffic issues on the A6. This would involve a pay on exit procedure to avoid the current pay on entry queues.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison thanked Alex for her presentation and highlighted how fortunate the village was to have such a fantastic amenity nearby.</p>
5	<p><b><u>To receive an update on Policing in the village from the Disley Policing Team.</u></b></p> <p>A written report was received from Lisa Furmanek, PCSO 21604   Poynton West and Adlington Beat Team   Macclesfield LPU</p> <p><i>Of note there are no current reoccurring issues in the Disley area. I have provided a breakdown of the burglaries that have been reported over the year:</i></p> <p><i>26/05/24 – Bentside Road – Building under renovation – stolen power tools and copper wiring (overnight) 29/11/24 – Chantry Road – between 10:30-17:00hrs smashed back window to gain entry. Items stolen from within 14/12/24 – Chantry Road – between 17:00-23:00hrs – back door lock drilled out. Two cars stolen from driveway. 24/01/25 – Meadow Lane – overnight – shed break – 2 bicycles stolen.</i></p>
6	<p><b><u>To receive a report from Cllr Pattison, Vice Chair of Disley Parish Council on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year and its' plans for 2025.</u></b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>2024/25 has been an extremely busy and demanding year for the Parish Council and I begin my report by thanking my fellow councillors and all the council staff for the support, hard work and dedication they have provided in order for us to maintain the excellent service that Disley Parish Council aims to provide to all residents.</p> <p>I also wish to extend my thanks and best wishes to Simon Brownbill who has recently resigned as Chair and Disley Parish Councillor. Simon has made an excellent contribution for six years, during which he was Chair of the council for 2 years and has provided much support and advice.</p> <p>Cllr. Sue Adams, who also serves as our Cheshire East Ward Councillor has worked tirelessly this year in supporting residents and in ensuring that, as well as dealing with current issues, a number of works that have been outstanding for years have been carried out.</p> <p>In May 2024 Disley Parish Council was delighted to appoint Samantha Podmore as the new Parish Clerk. Unfortunately, after settling into her new role Sam became ill and has been unable to return to work. Our best wishes go to Sam and her family.</p>

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However, the dedicated team at the Parish Council has enabled business to carry on as usual. Former clerk, Richard Holland, kindly agreed to return to work temporarily and two locum clerks are currently fulfilling the administration and financial requirements. This has been a particularly difficult period for the Parish Council and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has stepped up to help at this time.

**Election of Officers for the year 2024/25**

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2024, the Council appointed:

- Chair of the Council – Cllr. Simon Brownbill.
- Vice Chair – Cllr. Jackie Pattison.
- Chair of the Planning Committee – Cllr. Jackie Pattison.
- Chair of the Finance Committee – Cllr. Rachel Scale

The chair thanked Councillors for their input into the new committee and project team membership process.

**Disley Parish Council Services and activities**

**1. Community Centre**

- The Community Hall was utilised by regular hirers most weekdays and evenings and weekend bookings included Messy Church, children's birthday parties and many fund-raising events. The council continues to receive regular enquiries about hall availability.
- The Parish Council welcomed a new weekly hirer, AC Ballet Academy.
- Saturday coffee mornings – the majority of Saturdays were booked with the library kindly covering any gaps.
- The programme of improvements at the Centre continued in 2024/25 with new cupboards installed and decorating carried out by the back door to provide storage. The urinals in the men's toilets were upgraded.
- Three security posts were fitted to the Parish Council parking spaces.
- A gravel path was laid around the EV charging point.

**2. Ranger Service**

Projects and work undertaken by the two Council Rangers in 2024/25 included:

- Installing a bench by the canal drawbridge for Disley Footpaths Society (labour provided as part of a community grant)
- Renovation of 2 of the 3 mileposts in the village (3<sup>rd</sup> one to be renovated in 2025/26)
- Replacing posts and chains on the Ram Green.
- Installing fencing around the new kissing gate on Red Lane.
- Installing a new post and hand rail at Footpath 42.
- Removing fly tipping from village hotspots.
- Maintaining Council assets such as the Community Bus, Ranger Van, allotment sites and play equipment.

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- Partnering on specific projects with village groups such as Disley Footpaths Society and the Friends of Disley Station.
- Dressing the village for events such as Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Extravaganza.
- Regular tidying, litter picking, strimming, hedge-cutting and improvement work in the village centre.

**3. Community Bus Scheme:**

- A full programme of social trips has been provided throughout the year, many of which have been fully booked.
- Outings included pub lunches, garden centres, shopping trips and day trips to Liverpool, Cheshire Oaks, Hebden Bridge, Halifax, Trentham Shopping Village and many more.
- The Weekly Shoppers Group continued to be well utilised, providing a vital service to some less mobile residents.
- A team of 11 volunteer drivers gave their time and support to the scheme, for which the Council is truly grateful.
- The operation of group hire will be reviewed at a future date when staffing capacity allows for review/operation of this service.
- The bus required repairs to the bodywork last summer after suffering a substantial amount of damage when in use.

**4. Allotments:**

- The Council owns 34 allotment plots across Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones in Newtown.
- 6 new tenants were welcomed over the past 12 months and the waiting list stands at 5 people.
- Two site inspections were carried out during the year to ensure that plots were fully cultivated and well-maintained.
- Council Rangers continued to maintain paths and vacant plots and undertook some minor tree and hedge work.

**5. Parks and Play Areas.**

All Council play areas and the outdoor gym are subject to an annual independent safety inspection as well as monthly safety inspections by the Parks and Assets Ranger, who is ROSPA Play Area Inspection qualified.

**Newtown:**

- A concrete pathway to the Newtown bin was installed.
- Ongoing maintenance of the changing rooms

**Station ballcourt:**

- A broken lighting column was replaced and upgraded.

**Arnold Rhodes:**

- Regular maintenance, moss removal and all play equipment and benches have been cleaned

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**6. Electric Vehicle ChargePoint:**

- The Parish Council's EV ChargePoint at the Community Centre continues to be well used and averaged 61 vends per month.

**7. Tree Management:**

- The Parish Council commissioned a Trees' Safety Condition Assessment for all trees on Council land in March 2024.
- All Priority 1 (High) and Priority 2 (Medium) work was completed. Tree work is completed by a specialist tree surgeon, with smaller jobs undertaken by the Parks and Assets Ranger who has a City & Guilds Level 2 Crosscutting and maintenance qualification.

**8. Communications:**

- The Council's monthly e-Bulletin had 765 subscribers, receiving news updates and details of local events etc.
- Two editions of the Disley News hardcopy newsletter were distributed in the year. This was hand delivered to every home and businesses in Disley and Newtown.
- The website at [www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk) was regularly updated with council meeting information, news and events etc.
- The Council's freelance Media Assistant continued to increase the council's presence on social media and contributed to the e-Bulletin, Disley News and website.

**9. Village Events:**

The Parish Council organised a varied programme of events over the past 12 months, including:

- **Community Showcase** – this biennial event was held at Disley Methodist Church in July and received lots of positive feedback from exhibitors and attendees. The venue and format of the event will be reviewed ahead of the next Showcase in 2026.
- **Civic Sunday** – Chair of the Council, Cllr. Simon Brownbill hosted this event in October which included the presentation of Community Star Awards (see below).
- **Remembrance Sunday** – this was very well-attended and was a poignant occasion. The Parish Council engaged a Traffic Management company, supported by volunteers, to halt traffic at the Ram's Head crossroads to ensure the Service of Remembrance has due gravitas.
- **Christmas Extravaganza** – Fireworks, Santa's Grotto, face painting, festive food and live music all made the extravaganza one of the highlights of the community year. The Christmas trees, Nativity scene and Disley's unique big presents gave the village a wonderful festive atmosphere.

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- **Litter picks** – the Council organised two successful community litter picks in 2024.

**10. Planning:**

- During the year 2024/2025, the Parish Council debated and submitted comments on 34 planning applications.

**11. Community Star Awards:**

- Disley & Newtown residents were invited to nominate people in the village for a Community Star award to acknowledge their extraordinary contributions to the lives of others in the local community. The 2024 recipients were:
  - Yvonne Williamson for organising the Disley Belles group and her work across many village activities.
  - Geoff Williamson for running the Grumpy Old Men group, his involvement as a driver for Disley Community Bus and his work across many village activities.
  - Laura Weston for the many years' service she has given to the Disley School PTA.
  - Margaret Toft for her outstanding contribution across many village activities.
  - Julie Jones for keeping Disley village tidy.

**12. Parish Council enquiry service:**

- The Parish Council dealt with 64 logged enquiries in 2024/25.
- The main issues related to overgrown hedges and trees, roads and pavements, streetlighting and drains/gullies.
- Other enquiries included roadworks, disposal of dead animals, inconsiderate parking, fly tipping and graffiti which is always removed immediately by the Parish Council rangers to discourage any more.
- The Council continued to signpost residents to many outside bodies such as Cheshire East Council, BT, United Utilities, Cheshire Police, the Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust.

**13. Community Grants:**

In 2024/25 the Parish Council awarded Community Grants to:

- End of Life Partnership for Namaste box and training for Disley Friends volunteers.
- Disley Footpaths Society for a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary bench.
- Disley SEND Parents and Carers Group for setup funding for initial activity to facilitate generation of further funding upon which future activities will be built.

**14. Village Health and Well-being:**

This project group meets once every two months on Microsoft Teams and is attended by representatives from Middlewood Partnership, Cheshire East Social

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Care, End of Life Partnership and Disley Parish Councillors. It is an opportunity to exchange information and help facilitate improvements to the health and wellbeing of Disley and Newtown residents.

- Defibrillator and CPR Training – the Parish Council organised free community defib and CPR training in June.
- Warm Places – The Parish Council supported Warm Places initiatives during the winter months, such as soup and a roll lunches, a programme of Sunday afternoon film shows at Disley Community Centre and refreshments for users of Disley Library.
- Disley Parish Council supported many other health and well-being activities such as Disley Friends Group for carers and cared for and FIT Classes for falls prevention. It also promoted and hosted health and wellbeing events such as a visit from the Living Well Bus (NHS health checks), Time to Talk dementia advice and support, and a SEND drop-In session in Disley library in November with Ruby's Fund Sensory Bus in attendance. Family Hub outreach sessions were arranged in Disley library in February and March and these were well attended.

**15. Air Quality:** The real-time analyser (RTA) near the Dandy Cock continues to measure particulates as well nitrogen dioxide levels enabling regular and accurate air quality data to be collected in the village. Data including the monthly diffusion tube results can be downloaded from the Cheshire East Council website

**16. Disley and Newtown Parish Strategy:** It has not been possible to carry out an update as yet but councillors hope to revisit the strategy in 2025-26.

**Specific projects and activities for 2025/26**

- Community Centre – Further improvements are planned to include new heaters in the community hall, the provision of non-slip flooring and improvements to the public toilets.
- Arnold Rhodes Playing Field – Improvements will include repairs to the play area surfacing, new goalposts and surfacing around the goal areas, the installation of car park barriers and the provision of a new piece of play equipment.
- Newtown – Drainage work at the access to the upper field, football pitch maintenance and improvements to the access points to the upper field from the public footpath are planned.

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<b>7</b>	<p><b><u>To receive a report from DPC Finance Committee on the Parish Council's finances for year ending 31st March 2025.</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. Jean Windsor presented highlights of the Annual Finance Report (as submitted by the locum RFO) which is reproduced in full below:</p> <p><b><u>Income Highlights</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Council's income increased by £7,309 over the previous year. Notable sources of income included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Precept:</b> The core income from local taxation increased to £176,245, up from £164,600.</li> <li>• <b>Community Centre:</b> Generated a strong income of £23,716, slightly down from last year.</li> <li>• <b>Interest on Investments:</b> This nearly doubled, reaching £7,661, showing effective treasury management.</li> <li>• <b>Community Transport:</b> Notably decreased to £6,351, compared to £10,694 in 2023/24.</li> <li>• <b>Grants and Donations:</b> There were no new grants received this year, following £2,000 received previously.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Expenditure Overview</u></b></p> <p>Total expenditure was £227,268, a reduction of over £17,500 from the previous year. Key areas of spending included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staffing (Salaries, NI, Tax &amp; Pensions):</b> The largest expense at £123,358, reflecting the cost of delivering council services.</li> <li>• <b>Community Centre Costs:</b> Both capital and revenue costs combined totalled £28,050, supporting ongoing improvements and operations.</li> <li>• <b>Village Events (s145):</b> Continued support at £11,044, bringing the community together.</li> <li>• <b>Community Transport:</b> Increased to £8,935, ensuring mobility support for residents.</li> <li>• <b>Playgrounds:</b> Capital expenditure was significantly lower this year at £176, following last year's major investment of £16,756.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b><i>The Council maintained a balanced budget throughout the year with an income of 228,709 against an expenditure of £227,269.</i></b></p> </div>



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**Looking Ahead**

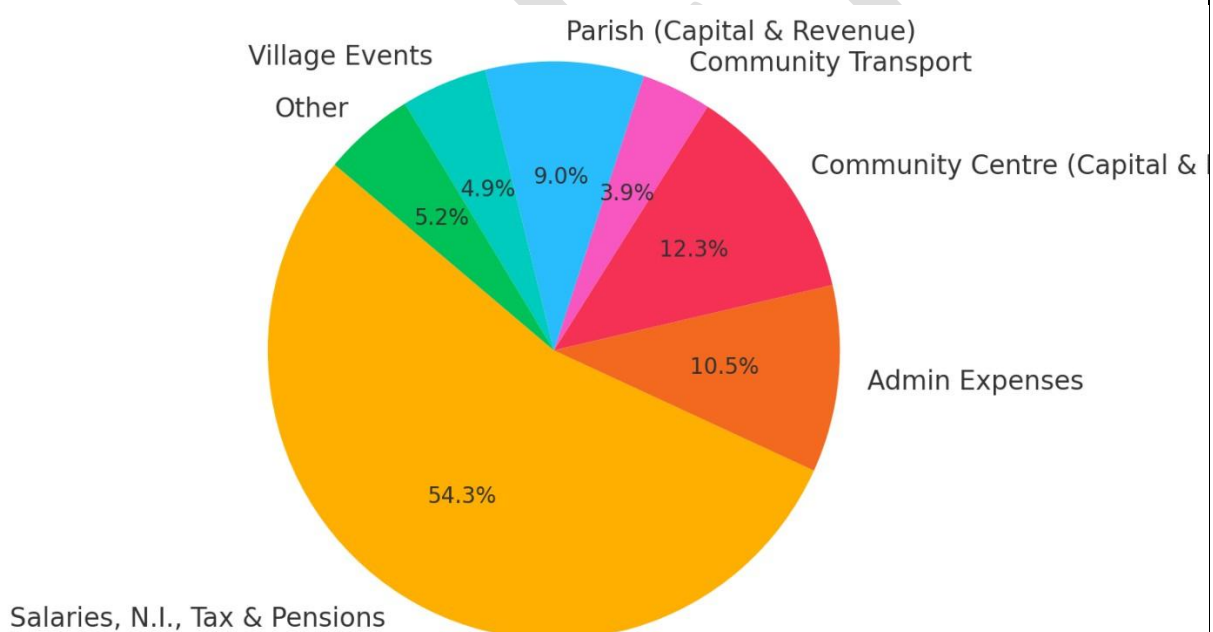
The Parish Council ends the financial year with a healthy closing balance of £227,180.64. This strengthens the Council's financial resilience and ensures continued investment in community priorities.

The Council remains strongly committed to delivering high-quality services supported by sound financial practices. While there has been a minor decrease in income from sources such as transport and grants, this presents an opportunity to review and strengthen our funding strategies, with a focus on unlocking new opportunities for future community development.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be considered at the Annual Parish Council Meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Following the Annual Parish Council meeting, and the approval of the AGAR, a Notice of Public Inspection (a set inspection period) will be issued and members of the public can request access to view the parish council's financial records, including documents such as receipts, invoices, contracts, and bank statements

**Expenditure Breakdown for Year Ending 31/03/2025**

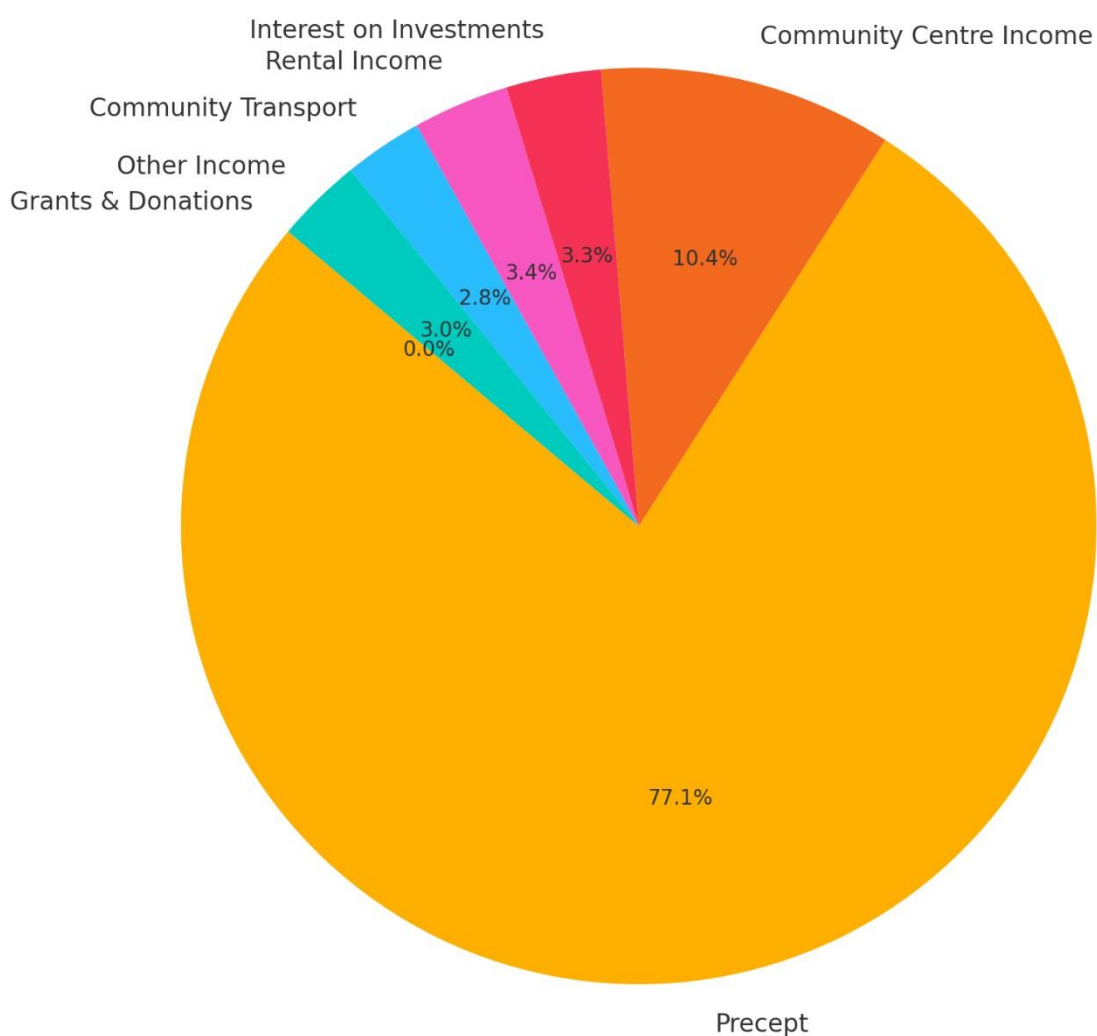


Expenditure	£
Admin Expenses	23,777
Allotments	513
Bank charges	35
Community Centre Capital	4,890
Community Centre Revenue	23,161
Community Transport	8,935
Council Vehicle	2,138
Grants and donations	1,068
Legal and Professional Fees	1,500

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Other staffing costs	2,659
Parish - Capital Expenditure	6,113
Parish - Revenue Expenditure	14,230
Playgrounds - Capital Expenditure	176
Playgrounds - Revenue Expenditure	1,446
Salaries (NI Tax & Pensions)	123,359
Street Lighting	2,224
Village Events (s145)	11,045
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>227,269</b>

Income Breakdown for Year Ending 31/03/2025



Income	£
Community Centre Income	23,716
Community Transport	6,351
Grants Donations	0.00
Income	6,972

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Interest on Investments	7,661
Precept	176,245
Rental Income	7,764
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>228,709</b>

**Opening Balances as at 01/04/2024 Ordinary Accounts**

- Petty Cash: £200.00
- RBS Current A/C + High Interest A/C: £11,441.47

**Short Term Investment Accounts**

- Cambs & Counties Bank – 5-year Bond: £87,006.95
- Nationwide Business – 1-year Saver: £87,485.73
- PayPal Account: £535.56
- The Cambridge Building Society: £38,000.37

**Total Opening Balance: £224,670.08**

**Closing Balances as at 31/03/2025 Ordinary Accounts**

- Petty Cash: £200.00
- RBS Current A/C + High Interest A/C: £8,165.98

**Short Term Investment Accounts**

- Cambs & Counties Bank – 5-year Bond: £88,010.27
- Nationwide Business – 1-year Saver: £92,260.44
- PayPal Account: £543.58
- The Cambridge Building Society: £38,000.37

**Total Short Term Investments: £218,814.66 Total Closing Balance: £227,180.64**

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8	<p><b><u>Public forum - an opportunity for residents to raise any matters of Parish interest.</u></b></p> <p>Suzanne from the community shop spoke about sharing information in the community for those without internet or social media to help bring businesses and organisations together for the community. Cllr Pattison thanked the shop for the support given to the community.</p> <p>David Kidd gave thanks to members of Disley Parish Council and its staff for its continuing work as a conduit for people in the community during a difficult year for the council.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of fireworks at the Christmas Extravaganza. Cllr Pattison reassured the resident that the council have taken on board the feedback from residents and therefore DPC have sourced quieter fireworks for this year's event.</p> <p>Discussion arose regarding road signage and traffic control on the A6.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison thanked all those present for attending the meeting and invited everyone to attend the council's monthly meetings</p>
	<p><b><u>Finish time:</u></b> 8.01pm</p>
	<p><b><u>SIGNED</u></b>.....<b><u>DATE</u></b>.....</p>