



Probus Parish Council

Annual Report 2024-2025

LEE HO, ASHDOWN CLOSE, STICKER, PL26 7EU

MAY 2025

Members of council 2024-25

Chair:

Cllr. Nicholas Gillard 01726 883926

Vice- Chair:

Cllr. Alison Cook 07516 794883

Cllr. James Faull 07494 756249

Cllr. Chris Dutton 07689 451207

Cllr Ian Peters 07969 451207

Cllr Ivan Myles 07815 944752

Cllr Wendy O'Callaghan

Cllr Jo Vincent

Cllr William Sutherland

Cllr Neil Glasson

Cllr Ross Goldsworthy

Cornwall Cllr Karen Glasson

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Finance Report & How the Precept was spent 2024-25

Account Balance - as at the **1st April 2025** stands at **£108,965.45**, of which:

- Earmarked for specific projects: **£45,600**
- CIL money – **£22,159.21**
- General reserves - **£41,206.25**

Explanations:

*The **precept** is the council tax that the billing authority (in this case, Cornwall Council) collects on behalf of a parish council. The precept is calculated as part of the parish council's budget; it fills the gap between the parish council's planned expenditure and its estimated income.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL**) is a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services - such as schools or transport improvements - needed to support new homes and businesses.

INCOME: The main income of Parish and Town Councils is provided by local residents via the Parish Precept, an element of your Council Tax.

Source	£
Parish Council Precept	£75,690
Bank Interest	£168.44
CIL Monies	£1,894.91
Cemetery Fees	£4,413
Car Park Income	£1,456
Cornwall Council SLA/LMP	£2,875.27
VAT refund	£7,451.37
Other Income	£982.51
	£83,848.82

Income streams:

It can be noted from the above that the greatest proportion of the Parish Council's income (90%) is derived from the Parish Precept. *

Community infrastructure levy (CIL) monies account for 2.2% of income **

Cemetery fees – 5.2%, car park - 1.7%, SLA contributions -3.4%, VAT refund – 6.8%

Other income account for 1.1% of total

EXPENDITURE: Total expenditure for the municipal year 202-25 amounted to £91,586 (gross).

Staff costs (including training and expenses)	£30,397.81
Hall Rent	£754.04
Equipment	£198.98
Insurance	£2,184.06
Subscriptions	£1,225.89
Website	£3,461.91
Audit Charges	£803.10
Grants	£5,981.60
Open spaces & Verges Maintenance	£8,676.45
Play Area/ Muga Maintenance	£14,987.84
Infrastructure improvement	£3,699.9
Waste Removal and weed treatment	£1,021.18
Public Toilets (Excl. Cleaning)	£722.5
Contributions to community projects from CIL funds	£13,227.15
Other, including assets maintenance	£4,243.59
Including VAT	£5,589.92
TOTAL	£91,586

Probus Parish Council Chair's Report 2024-2025

Look back over the past and you may see the future too. Consistency is more important than perfection and success isn't always about greatness, it's about progress and embracing change. Last year brought changes and the need to respond and adapt along the way.

The parish council Clerk continued with her studies to towards successfully completing the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA). The council's maintenance officer, Andy Taskis, decided to leave for alternative employment. Andy had made a significant and positive impact on the parish and has been missed by many residents. Fortunately, the council was able to re-appoint Glen as its maintenance officer and recruit a new member, Brent, to the team. The council has continued to contract with Algaard Renshaw Business Solutions to cover the function of 'responsible financial officer' along with carrying out its internal audit to ensure its statutory duties were met for the municipal year.

At the beginning of the municipal year Mr. W Sutherland decided to stand down after several years of commitment and unwavering support. Mr. N Glasson decided to stand down in October. The council acknowledges and thanks them both for their contribution over several years.

The council was pleased to welcome, over a period of months, four new co-opted members, Mr. Ian Peters, Mr. Ivan Myles, Mrs. Wendy O'Callaghan and Mrs. Joanna Vincent.

The saddest point in the year was the loss of Cllr Ross Goldsworthy who passed away in February 2025. Ross was a firm believer in the importance and power of community, and we remember his contribution as being a voice of fairness, transparency and integrity.

Grants were awarded in the year to the Village Hall Committee, Playing Field Committee, Probus School PTA and Probus News received a grant in support of its dedicated work in keeping the village informed and entertained with news through its monthly magazine. Probus Fun Week Committee received a grant to cover the costs of medical insurance cover for events of the 2nd Fun Week. The parish council acknowledges the tremendous amount of work carried out by all the volunteers involved in the extensive range of community groups that support the community. The parish Council continued to meet the costs of a Christmas tree erected on the Church cobbles, many thanks to all the residents involved for organising this.

The village took part in the wider national event to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day with commemorative events. The parish council acknowledges the work of Ryan Davies in co-ordinating the local events and was pleased to contribute by purchasing the official lamp of peace and taking part in the tributes given before lighting the beacon.

In July the country went to the polls in a general election and voted for an emphatic change in government.

Village infrastructure and general upkeep has continued throughout the year. Works at the play area included: installation of a new fence & gates; laying new compound material to the roundabout and to the sides of the skate ramp; new waste bins. Other work included: updating signage to the MUGA; installing new cemetery gates; a new & larger waste bin fitted to the bus shelter on Fore St. Village square improvements were all completed, including some remedial works. Funding has been approved to install a further bus shelter on Fore St at the west end of the village by Probus school Filling Station. Funding for this will be available in the next financial year.

The 20 mph speed limit was introduced following the completion of traffic calming measures at the west end entry to the village. It is an enforceable speed limit and in some areas the police have run speed

checks and issued notices of intention to prosecute. The new speed limit has made a notable difference, although some drivers still exceed the limit.

Probus Village Hall committee was successful in its application to the community levelling up fund and the parish council provided match funding as part of their successful bid. The modernisation & improvements had to be completed before the end of the financial year. The changes have transformed the village hall making it more accessible and a more attractive venue for a range of events.

The council prepared and published its “off street parking order” for consultation which will enable it to have more control over its parking areas at the village hall and at the playing field/MUGA. The long-term lease agreement with Probus Surgery for the use of some spaces at the playing field car park expired at the end of the year. Probus surgery decided not to renew its lease. Consequently the “off street parking order” has been amended and will be concluded in the forthcoming year.

Regular Parish Council business continued during the year with regular meetings, including providing consultation responses to over 20 planning applications. Councillors continued to fulfil their representative roles on various committees and liaising with other local bodies & groups. In addition to the general work council agreed resolutions to:

- switch to an alternative web site design and host to modernize and update its web site.
- sign a “civility & respect” pledge and update council policies as part of a national initiative to demonstrate that there is no place for bullying, harassment nor intimidation in local government.
- switch to an alternative provider for commercial waste management.
- begin work on preparing and publishing an “emergency contingency plan” for the parish. This work will extend into the following year and will require engagement with residents and members of community groups.
- installed new waste bins at the play area and the playing field
- allocate the parking spaces previously used by Probus Surgery for use under the residents' parking permit scheme
- become part of a pilot project with Cornwall council to enable the parish/community to produce a “Neighbourhood Priorities Statement”. Work began on this at the end of the year and will continue through until the autumn of 2025/26.

As the year draws to a close there are local elections for town/parish councils and for electoral wards. All of the eight probus parish councillors in position at the end of the year submitted their nominations and were duly re-elected to the council. Three vacancies remain and the Clerk would be delighted to receive expressions of interest and/or applications from residents.

Thank you to all the staff & Cllrs (past & present) for their time, effort, and commitment to the parish throughout the year.

Cllr N. Gillard Chair
Probus Parish Council