

It has been yet another good and busy year for the Council. As Chairman I would like to express my gratitude to all the Councillors and our Clerk, Sarah Hunt, for all the hard work they undertake on behalf of the Parish.

As a result of the Elections we lost three valued members of our Council, Tony Gates, Paul Hurkett and Paddy Manifold. I would take this opportunity to thank them for all of the hard work and support they offered the Council during their tenure. Following their success at the contested Election the Parish Council welcomes three new members, Mike Huke, Wendy Llewellyn and Lee Sutton and I look forward to working alongside them.

The Community Centre houses the Parish Council office, and additional grant funding has meant that tables and chairs have been purchased and also additional catering equipment. The centre offers an excellent and affordable venue for hire, and is offering increasing numbers of classes and events.

The village faces a challenging future with plans already passed for some 200 additional homes and more anticipated. The Parish Council has been pressing for both the inclusion of affordable homes and also other improvements to mitigate this increase in population. This year we hosted a public meeting with the planning team from GYBC as well as public displays and meetings with developers to keep the village informed. Currently Councillors are investigating the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

As always the Village Greens and Ponds needed active management. This year has seen extensive work on the trees around the Green with thinning some of the bigger trees and the felling of two dying trees. The main pond had the application of more Siltex to clear the water and regular litter picking. Our annual litter pick cleared litter from around the village in time for the Scarecrow Festival. Thanks to the Garden Club for wonderful job they do on the planters on the Green.

The Council manages allotments in Cess Road, there are a few available, if you have any interest in having an allotment and joining this community of growers please do get in touch with the Clerk.

The Scarecrow Festival and Carnival were supported by the Parish Council, and Councillors were involved on the organising committees of both. We are lucky in such a small village to have fantastic people prepared to give up so much time to organise events for us all to enjoy. Thanks go to the Scarecrow Committee for their purchase of the wonderful new Christmas lights.

Linking with other organisations allows the Council to improve services within the village. This year saw the implementation of the Vodaphone Sure Signal Scheme, and the setting up of a Good Neighbour Scheme in association with Community Action Norfolk. The public toilets were saved from closure by the collaboration between the Parish Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

Working to make Martham a greener, safer and more attractive village for all

Caring for



The Council has applied for the War Memorial to be listed to protect it for future generations.



The benches around the Green have all been assessed and work starts shortly. Thanks to the British Legion one severely damaged bench has already been replaced.



Extensive work has been undertaken on the trees around the Village Green.

the Village



The Council is arranging for the much vandalised phone box on Somerton Road to be moved and refurbished to house a defibrillator at the Playing Field.



Land Registry First-Tier Tribunal Court Case

The Parish Council was once again the Respondent in a Land Registration Case. This was heard at Great Yarmouth on the 10th and 11th May following a site meeting on the 9th.

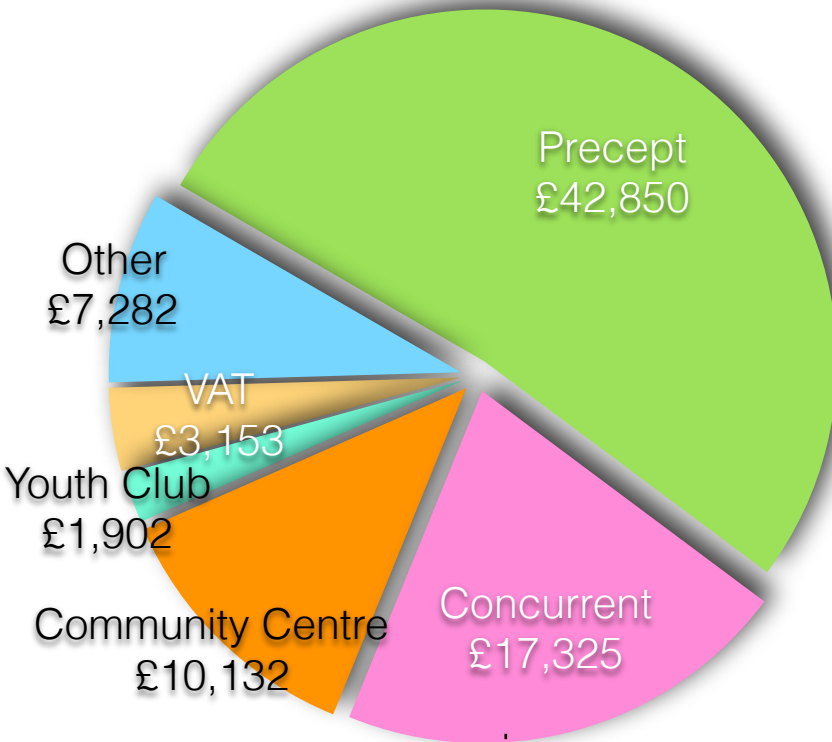
This case concerned a claimed right to drive over the Village Green, which was disputed by the Parish Council.

Submissions have now been called in from Barristers representing both parties, these are due to be sent to the Tribunal by the end of May, with the possibility of another half a day in Court in London. The judgement should then be made shortly afterwards.

Parish Council Meetings

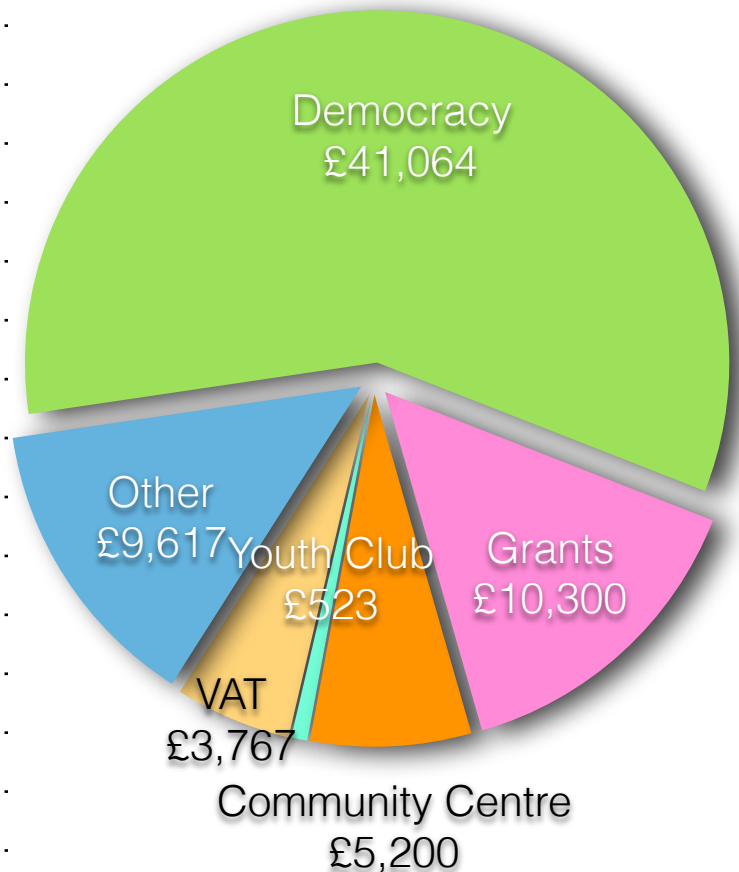
Take place on the third Wednesday of the month (except in August) starting at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Playingfield Lane, members of the public are welcome to attend and address the Council at the start of the meeting.

Income and Expenditure 2015/6



Source	Income
Allotments	£2,137.50
Precept	£42,850.00
Concurrent	£17,325.00
Community Plan	£500.00
Community Centre	£10,132.35
Recycling	£1,512.86
Festivals	£1,799.54
Youth Club/Grants	£1,902.00
VAT Refund	£3,153.46
Miscellaneous	£1,331.73
Total Income:	£82,644.44

Source	Expenditure
Allotments	£1,248.00
Audit	£746.50
Democracy/Salaries	£32,454.97
Churchyard Maint.	£3,300.00
Community Centre	£5,200.16
Festivals	£1,483.35
Footpaths	£1,071.85
Insurance	£1,171.18
Litterpicking	£1,138.25
Playingfield Grant	£6,500.00
Ponds	£29.48
Recycling	£308.89
Legal Fees	£4,893.00
Training	£884.50
Section 137	£100.00
Subscriptions	£914.22
Village Green	£4,236.36
Village Hall Grant	£500.00
Youth Club	£522.70
VAT	£3,767.36
Total Income:	£70,470.77



For more information on the Council's Finances and other information please visit the Council's Website.