



Blackwell Farm looking  
toward Pirbright Ranges

## **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR 2025/26**

*Supporting our community, improving our environment  
and making Worplesdon a wonderful place to live!*

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### **What does your Parish Council do?**

Worplesdon Parish Council is the "grassroots" of local government, closest to the people and focused on improving life in our community. We listen to your ideas, tackle your concerns, and work to:

- **Represent our community**
  - **Deliver services to meet local needs**
  - **Enhance the quality of life for everyone**
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### **How we help the Parish thrive**

Here's just a glimpse of the ways we're working for you:

#### **Maintaining public spaces for general and event use**

- Jacobs Well Recreation Ground, Harry's Meadow, and local play areas
- Wood Street Village Green, Pitch Place Green, and Perry Hill Green
- Litter bins, benches, bus shelters, and more!

#### **Supporting the community**

- Quarterly newsletters delivered to every household
  - Grants for local organisations
  - Flood Forum to address flooding challenges
  - Celebrations of State Occasions
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## ◆ Keeping you safe

- Community Speed Watch and Vehicle Activated Signs
- Regular inspection and maintenance (trees and play areas)
- Ongoing partnerships with Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Thames Water, and the Environment Agency

## ✨ Adding a touch of joy



- Festive Christmas lights across the Parish
- Maypole maintenance for Wood Street Village Green
- Planting and caring for trees and enhancing our meadows across the parish



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## 🏠 How do we fund this work?

The Parish Council raises funds through the "precept". A small portion of your local council tax is collected on our behalf by Guildford Borough Council (for the financial year 2024/25, this amounted to 4% of your overall Council Tax Bill). Our Precept ensures we can:

- Protect and enhance public spaces
- Invest in new facilities
- Keep our community thriving

Every penny goes back into making Worplesdon a wonderful place to live.

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## What your councillors do for you as unpaid holders of public office

- **Represent the community** – Act as the voice of residents and engage with them to understand their needs
- **Make decisions** – Participate in meetings to decide on local services, projects, and policies
- **Set priorities** – Help shape the council’s vision and allocate resources effectively
- **Manage resources** – Oversee budgets and ensure transparent use of funds
- **Advocate for the Parish** – Collaborate with other authorities to address local issues
- **Support initiatives** – Assist with council projects, events, and community services
- **Review planning applications** – Ensure developments align with parish needs
- **Act with Integrity** – Uphold ethical standards and make decisions for the community’s best interests

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## Who carries out the decisions of the Council?

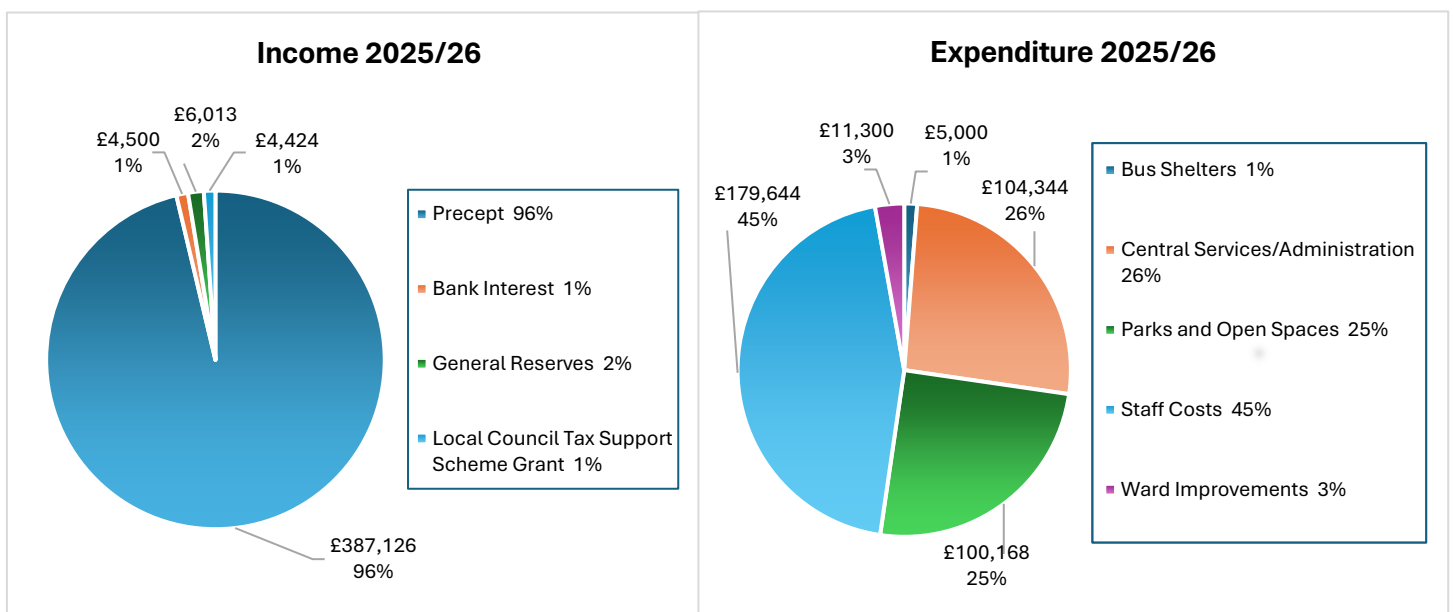
Our dedicated **Parish Clerk and team** ensure everything runs smoothly, from managing projects to keeping our finances in check. Behind every well-maintained park, playground repair, or community event is our small team comprising of:

- Full-time Parish Clerk
- Assistant Clerk (part-time)
- Finance Officer (part-time)
- Groundstaff (part-time)

Without their hard work, none of this would be possible!

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## How we plan to spend your money in 2025/26



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## **Why has our budget [council tax] had to increase? Changes beyond our control**

After lengthy and careful consideration, the Parish Council has, regrettably, decided to increase the budget, aiming to minimise the impact on residents while maintaining financial responsibility, for the following reasons:

### **Loss of income:**

- Unfortunately, Guildford Borough Council is withdrawing its grant funding to Parish Councils. Additionally, the Section 106 grant (planning gain) obtained from the new development off Keens Lane has now been exhausted. We will therefore have £15,000 less income next year.

### **Budget Changes:**

- Government Autumn Budget Statement – Employer’s National Insurance has increased to 15% and the threshold has decreased
- Public sector wage settlement agreed
- Increased regulation around environmental compliance imposed by the Environment Act 2021
- Guildford Borough Council now charge us for emptying litter and dog waste bins on Parish owned and leased land

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## **Rising costs**

We rely on trusted contractors for key services like grass cutting, playground repairs, and Christmas illuminations. However, with inflation outpacing the Consumer Price Index, costs are rising faster than we’d like. Rest assured; we’re working hard to manage these increases responsibly while continuing to deliver services for you.

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## **Want to get involved?**

### **Join Us as a Parish Councillor!**


Be the voice of your community, help shape the future and make a difference.

Whether you're passionate about preserving nature, improving facilities, or addressing local issues, your perspective matters.

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## **Stay Connected!**

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

 Call: 01483 300094

 Visit: <https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/>

Together, let’s continue to make Worplesdon a place we’re proud to call home!

**Worplesdon Parish Council – Working for You**