

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 7th April 2026

Present: Councillor, Mrs N Griffiths. (Chair)

Councillors, T Fiddler, Mrs L Willis, Mrs. J Atherton, Mrs P Mulholland, Mrs N Whalley, Mrs D Dickinson, A Smith, Mrs C Thomas, Mrs F Craig-Wilson, T Threlfall and K McKay.

Apologies:

None.

1) Chairman's Annual Report 2026

I would like to express my gratitude for the commitment and support shown by Mrs.

Fiona Newbold and Vice chairman Pam Mulholland. We are lucky to belong to a vibrant community, known for its flowers, music, churches, and more. Our village spirit shows in how we celebrate and support each other.

Last year marked the centenary of the men's bowling club, a remarkable achievement that stands as a testament to the enduring tradition, and commitment of its members over the decades. The club's history is woven into the fabric of our village life, and reaching this 100-year milestone is a source of pride for all involved. In addition, this year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ladies' half marathon, a much-anticipated event that takes place every June. For half a century, this ladies marathon together participants and supporters from across the community, highlighting the spirit of inclusivity, perseverance, and celebration that defines our parish. Both milestones reflect the rich heritage and ongoing dedication of our community members, and we look forward to commemorating these significant achievements together.

Freckleton in Bloom was awarded the Northwest in Bloom gold award in October for its vibrant environment. This achievement is attributed to the efforts of Parish Council contractors and Janice, known as the Litter Fairy, whose contributions have also helped maintain the village's attractive appearance.

The parish extends heartfelt thanks to Councillor Norma Whalley for her outstanding efforts in organising the Christmas market. This event has become a **cherished** occasion in our calendar, bringing joy and festive spirit to residents and visitors alike. Councillor Whalley's dedication ensured that the market ran smoothly and provided an opportunity for our community to come together in celebration. Councillors Tommy Threlfall and Trevor Fiddler who have played an important role in our village's success and community spirit through their long-term commitment and support. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who generously gives up their time to help others or strives to make a positive difference in our community. Your selfless efforts and commitment are invaluable, fostering a sense of unity and compassion that strengthens the fabric of our parish. Thank you for your contribution, which is truly appreciated.

Cllr. Mrs Carol Thomas
Chairman of the Parish Council

2) Chairman of Finance's report 2025

- Thank you to Mr. Ken Armistead and our new Clerk, Mrs. Fiona Newbold, for all their help and guidance this past year, which has been much appreciated.
- **Precept account (including Open Spaces).**
 - The Councils expenditure for 2025/26 was over spent by £19,294 due to the increase in energy, fuel costs, and increase in material costs, repairs to the Buildings, Open Spaces areas & machinery. This will be paid for from the Council's Reserves.
 - **The Precept for 2026/27 has been set with an increase of 2.63%.**
 - Thanks go to all the Councillors for keeping a tight control on the budgets and ensuring it receives best value for the money being spent.
- **Community Development Account**
Interest rates have increased on the Council's savings Accounts. See below

Sequence A67

Initialed

- **Capital expenditure**

Repairs to John Deer Tractor	£1,572
Tree Cutting	£3,248
Replacement Defibrillator Pads	£ 324
New Toilets Bowling Club	£3,300
Resurfacing Path in Park	£5,888
Outdoor gym (£13,000 of Section 106 monies used towards this project)	£4,532

- **Income**

Interest on the Council's Savings accounts	£ 847
Rent from Hire of land	£ 850
Donation for Bench	£ 500
LCC grass cutting contract	£4,419

- **Proposed Capital Expenditure for 2026/27 (The amount of expenditure to be agreed)**

Donation towards Play-zone (£225,00)	£12,000
Solicitors' fees for Morecambe & Morgan Project	£ 3,975
Drains for Bush Lane allotments	£29,000

COUNCIL FINANCIAL RECORDS ARE KEPT STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND ARE AUDITED REGULARLY BY COUNCILLORS AND ANNUALLY BY AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR. ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING FROM THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

3) Financial Statement -Unaudited

It was resolved to approve the unaudited Accounts – see Appendix A.

4) Public Participation

No public were in attendance.

Signed: Mrs C Thomas (Chair)

Date: 5th May 2026

Appendix A

30 March 2026 (2025 - 2026)

Freckleton Parish Council
Income & Expenditure Account
01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026

(Current) Year Ended
 31 Mar 2026

Income

Open Spaces Account	1,554.15
Organisations	35.00
General Income	195,801.32
Allotments - Croft Butts Lane	1,047.50
Allotments - Bush Lane	1,365.00
	<u>£199,802.97</u>

Expense

General Expenditure	71,766.34
Open Spaces Account	86,229.53
Allotments - Bush Lane	1,105.18
Organisations	43,684.25
Allotments - Croft Butts Lane	319.37
Additional	15,992.90
	<u>£219,097.57</u>

General Fund

Balance at 01 Apr 2025	68,441.40
ADD Total Income	199,802.97
	<u>268,244.37</u>
DEDUCT Total Expenditure	219,097.57
	<u>49,146.80</u>
Balance at 31 Mar 2026	<u>£49,146.80</u>

The above represents fairly the financial position of the Authority at 31st March 2026 and reflects its income and expenditure.