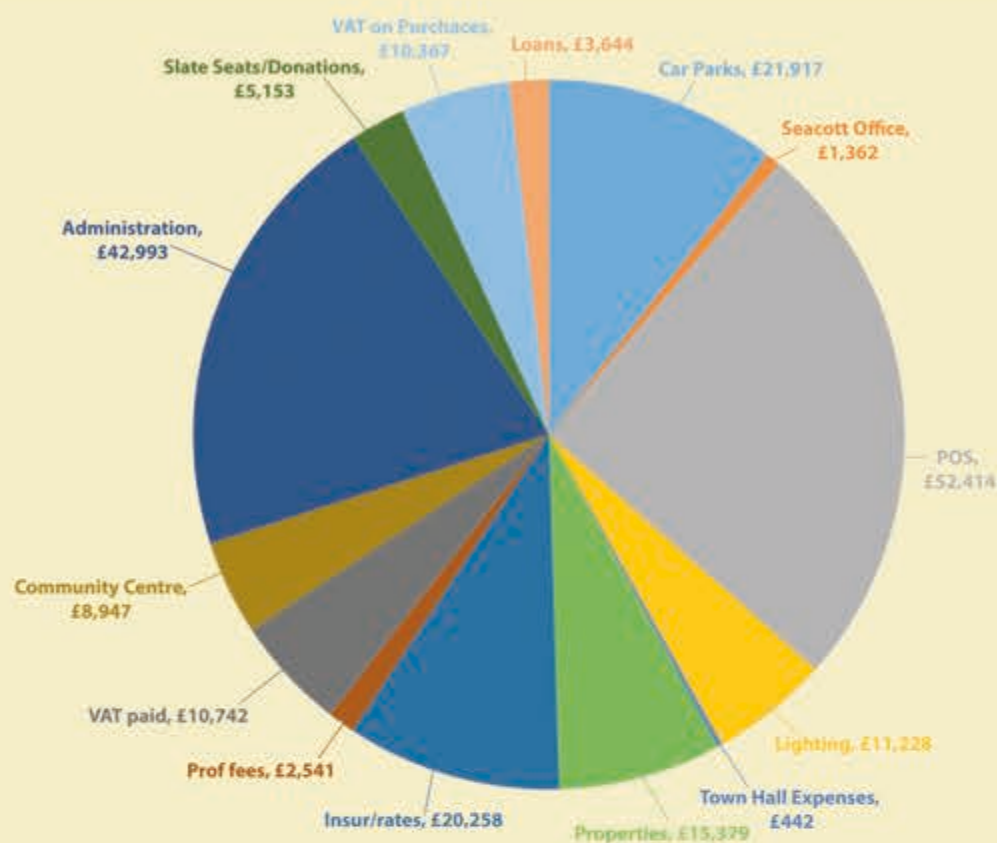


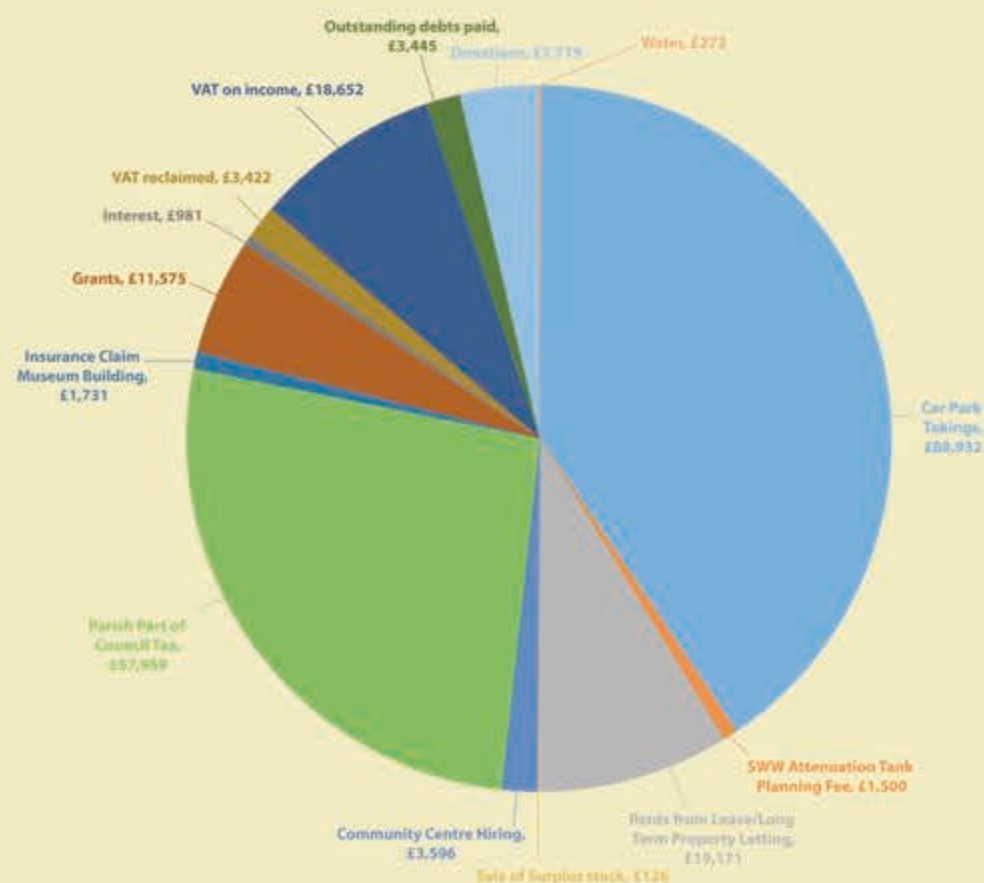
Income & Expenses

Parish Councillors as at 1 May 2015

Expenditure



Income



Julia Clark
883611



Wendy Druce
882013



Yvette Gubb
882364



Peter James
883394



Ian Lawton
883284



Helen Mallinder
883220



Lin Wheelan
882993



Celia Withers
883228

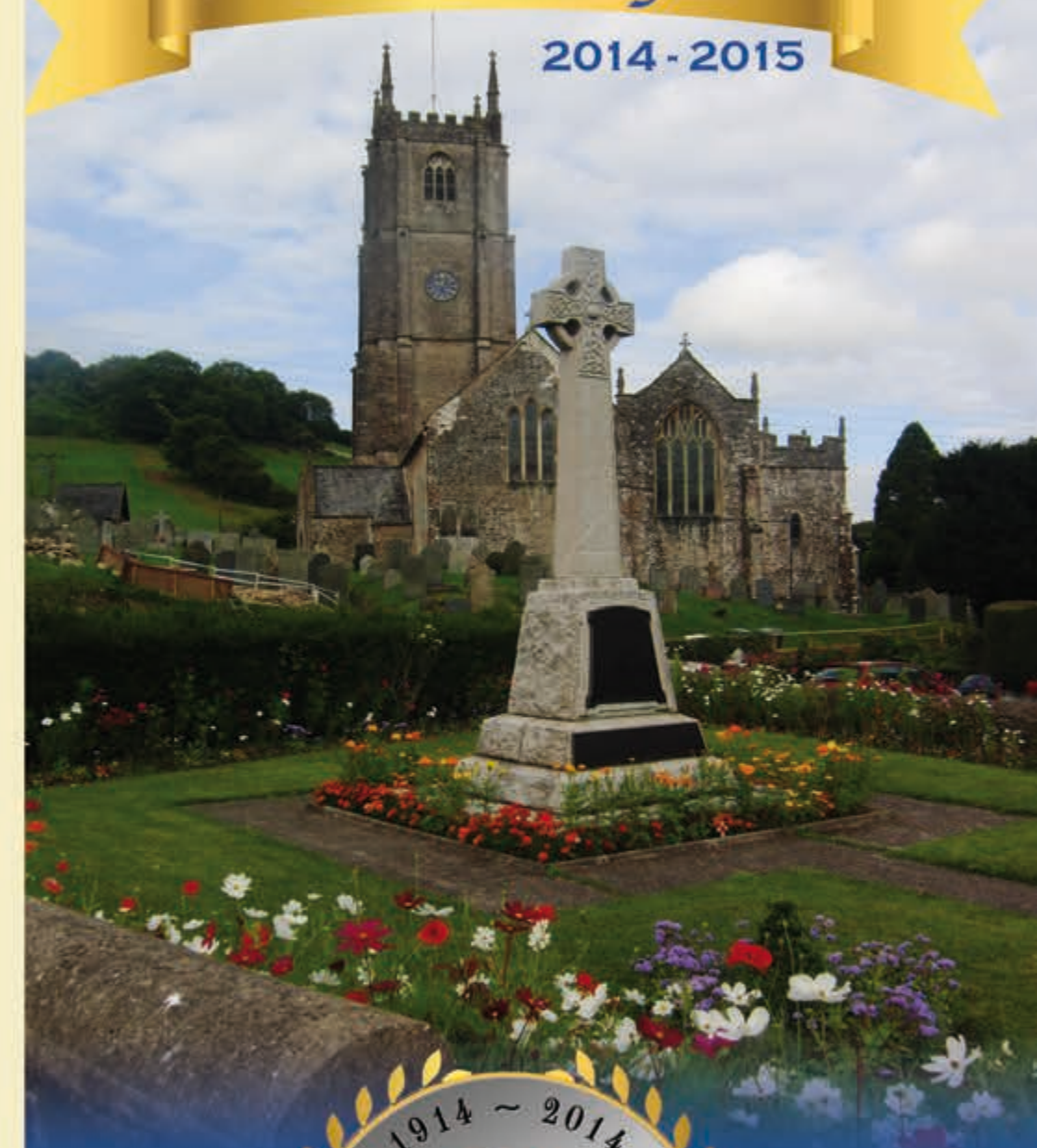
Parish Clerk - Michelle Beaumont
Seacott, Cross Street, Combe Martin, EX34 0DH
01271 883403 Web: www.combemartin-pc.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS
e-mail: info@combemartin-pc.gov.uk

Combe Martin Parish Council

Annual Report

2014 - 2015



Dear Shammickites

This year has seen a number of projects, started last year, begin to show encouraging results.

In November, to the relief of all concerned, the lease of the Village Hall was finally completed. Council looks forward to seeing more improvements to the Hall as the Village Hall Community Group build on the good work that they have already done.

In August, we marked the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I by holding a procession from the top of the village to Seaside, to which everyone was invited, finishing with a service on the Beach. Thanks to all of you who turned out to support the walk, to greet the parade at Seaside and to join in the service on the Beach. We greatly appreciated all the practical help and sound advice we received from Rev Philip Young about the event, as well as his moving and timely conducting of the service on the Beach. Thanks are also due to Rev Keith Wyer for his contribution at the War Memorial, and to the bell-ringers.

In the autumn, planning permission was granted to convert the building at the Parade into an art gallery/cafe. Since then, we have had some works done to the building, including installing a pump to enable it to be connected to the main sewer. A lease has recently been signed and our new tenant is working hard to convert the building. We wish the tenant every success and hopes that everyone enjoys refreshments overlooking Combe Martin Bay this summer.

We were very happy to assist South West Water's plans, to invest £2 million to improve Combe Martin's water quality, by agreeing to an attenuation tank being installed at the Coach Park.

The last two and a half years have not all been plain sailing, and a great deal of work has gone into Parish Council projects, but it has been very encouraging to see projects slowly taking shape. This is the end of this Parish Council's four year term of office, and your councillors are leaving the parish in a far stronger position than it was when many of us became councillors. Best wishes to you all.

Graeme Coombs, Chairman

Graeme Coombs



The Parish Council Year

This year we have made several changes to the gardens in the centre of the Village. Last summer the bridge from Blackmore Ham Gardens to the Riverside Walk became unsafe after having been there for over 30 years, and in the autumn the whole bridge was replaced.

Two large flower beds at Blackmore Ham Gardens have been removed, giving a much larger grassy area for playing on. A channel has been dug to drain surplus water which tends to gather at the bottom of the steps. And at Adams Hay the footpath has been re-tarmacked.



Bridge at Ham Meadows

We have successfully applied for a grant from Devon County Council and North Devon Council's Town and Parishes Fund to replace some of the play equipment at Arnold's Plot. Wendy Druce and Yvette Gubb kindly gave £397.25 towards this project, the money being the closing balance of the bank account set up by Combe Martin Youth Association. The rest of the cost will be met from Parish Council funds and we hope that the new play equipment will be in place during the summer.

The Parish Council's dog ban came into force last summer, and proved to be very useful in dissuading people from taking their dogs onto Combe Martin Beach. This year the ban on the Beach takes effect between 1 May and 30 September. The ban also covers Arnold's Plot Play Area and the Football Pitch at Hollands Park all year round.

Last summer we obtained a licence from the Marine Management Organisation to rebuild the weir. Despite the fact that this Council owns the Beach to the low water mark, it still needs to complete the red tape of obtaining permission from government bodies. Balfour Beattie kindly rebuilt the weir at no cost to Combe Martin Parish Council and has also repaired the wall between the Umber and the Beach to help keep sand at the top of the Beach.

This was a good-will gesture for the disruption we all had to cope with during last winter, whilst South West Water improved the storage capacity of our sewage system to improve the water quality and hopefully to enable us to pass the testing.

What We Have Achieved

Once the works at High Street Coach/Car Park had finished and it had been re-tarmacked and lined, we were able to start using it for car parking, which has proved popular with a number of people.

No sooner had the disruption caused by South West Water's works finished, than Devon County Council's contractors moved in to resurface the main road and part of Rectory Road. This was financed by DCC's successful bid for money to central Government. It is wonderful to have a so much better road surface and, hopefully, this will be the last of what seemed to be a never-ending series of works to our main road over the last few years.



Resurfacing Car Park

We added our own contribution to the disruption to drivers in March, when parts of Kiln Car Park were resurfaced and all the car park was re-lined. Thank you to all of you who were so patient and helpful in moving your cars whilst this went on.

We have installed broadband into the Community Centre after receiving requests for broadband access from users. Hopefully this will encourage more people to use the facilities there. The Management User Group has worked hard, held several open events and we now have several new users in the Centre.

