



Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council



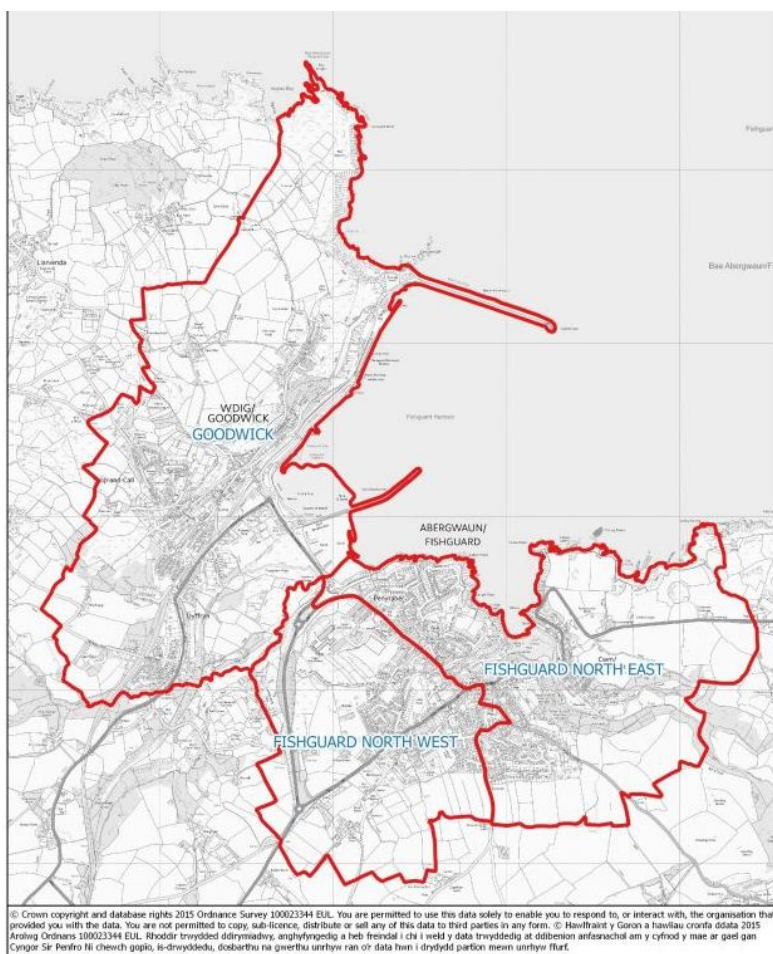
Annual Report May 2025 – April 2026

Mission Statement

Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council will support, enable and empower its residents, communities and its partnerships to achieve positive change for our towns. We are committed to preserving our towns unique character while promoting economic and social growth to build a thriving community.

About the Council

Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council serves a population of almost 5500 residents. It has 14 councillors covering three wards: Fishguard North East, Fishguard North West and Goodwick.



The Town Council is a corporate body and as such it makes and owns its decisions collectively. Individual councillors are unable to make decisions on behalf of the Town Council.

The role of a councillor is a responsible one, and all must agree to act within the law. All councillors are governed by the Code of Conduct set out by the Public Ombudsman for Wales, and when accepting office must sign a declaration of acceptance to say they have agreed to do so.

Town councillors do not receive a salary but are paid for specific expenses or allowances.

Councillors are expected to follow the Council's training plan, a copy of which can be found on our website. During 2025-26 councillors attended ten training sessions.

Our councillors for 2025-26:

- **Fishguard North East Ward:** Cllr. Alex Allison
Cllr. Caleb Churchill
Cllr. Sharon McCarney
Cllr Jim Morgan
Cllr. Billy Shaw (mayor 2024-25)
- **Fishguard North West Ward:** Cllr. Eilish Blade (February 25 to June 25)
Cllr. Steve Hughes (deputy mayor 25-26)
Cllr. Jordan Ryan (also County Cllr.) (until December 2025)
Cllr. Adrian Tyrrell
Cllr John Molloy (co-opted in February 2026)
Cllr Rhys Ribbons (co-opted in September 2025)
- **Goodwick Ward:** Cllr. Ole Davidson
Cllr. Kevin Elcock
Cllr. Nicola Gwynn (also County Cllr.)
Cllr. Brian Murphy
Cllr Thomas Hughes

The Town Council can also have two Youth Representatives. One position is currently filled by Ella Maxfield. Ella can participate at Town Council meetings but is not able to vote on Council matters.

The Town Council employs one member of staff, Ms Rachel Thomson, who holds the position of both Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Ms Thomson works 25 hours a week and has an office located in the Town Hall. Ms Thomson has completed two qualifications since joining us in September 2022.

Meetings & Committees

Meetings of the full Council take place on the first Tuesday of every month except August, when the council is in recess.

The meetings are held in the Town Hall at 7pm but can also be attended virtually via Microsoft Teams.

The agenda for each meeting can be found on the Council's website and on the Town Hall noticeboard at least 3 working days before the meeting.

The meetings are open to all members of the public and who are welcome to attend. There is a public session at the start where you may speak about an agenda item or

other matter you wish to address to the Council. The public may attend in person or via Teams, please contact the Clerk for a link if you wish to attend this way.

During 2025-26 there were 11 full council meetings and two extraordinary meetings. Councillor attendance at these meetings ranged from 57% to 100% with an average attendance of 79% across the year. Note, due to planned absences e.g. holidays, and unfilled councillor vacancies during the year 100% attendance of the full council was not always possible.

The Council has five standing committees. These help to reduce the number of items on the full council meeting by delegating some decision making to them. Committees are governed by Terms of Reference, which are decided by full Council and detail what the committees can and cannot do. Committees may have their own budgets which are also governed by their Teams of Reference and subject to full council agreement.

The committees are:

- Planning
- Finance
- Events
- Governance
- Personnel

The time and frequency of some committee meetings can vary but agendas are posted on the Council's website. Apart from the Personnel Committee, members of the public are welcome to attend all committee meetings.

During 2025-26 a total of 46 committee meetings were held.

In addition to its committees, the Council also had three working groups during this year. Working groups are usually created to focus on specific pieces of work. In this year the working groups were:

Town Centre Regeneration – improvements to the towns as a whole

Community Asset Transfer – Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) offer to transfer the Town Hall to the community

Twinning – establishing a twinning link with Rosslare

Staying in Touch

The Town Council welcomes communication from others and works to make this accessible to all.

The Town Council website contains helpful information, for example financial information, grant application forms, agendas and minutes, news items, local events and community information.

Contact details for your councillors and Town Clerk can also be found on our website. Follow this link: <https://www.fishguardgoodwick-tc.gov.wales> or scan the QR code below to access it.



The Town Council also has a Facebook page – search for “**Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council**” or scan the QR code below. It is kept updated with useful and informative information.



The Town Council has four noticeboards, at the Town Hall, Golden Mile, Goodwick Memorial and Lower Town. These are updated regularly with notices of meetings, councillor vacancies and local information.

Most Town Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome residents and community groups who wish to come and speak to us. Attendance details are published on our website with the meeting agendas.

The council office is situated at the front entrance of the Town Hall and is open Monday to Wednesday 1-4pm and Thursday 10-4pm. The address and phone number is on our website. The Clerk can also be contacted by email Monday to Thursday 9.30-4pm.

At their request, we have representatives on some local organisations. The elected councillor representative attends meetings and reports back to the Council. Representatives in 2025-26 were:

- North Pembrokeshire Trade & Tourism – Cllr Sharon McCarney
- Twinning Committee (Loctudy) – Cllr Adrian Tyrrell and Cllr Alex Allinson
- One Voice Wales -Cllr Shaw and Rachel Thomson
- ARAP (Anti-Racist Action Plan) Committee – Cllr Allinson

The Mayor

The mayor is appointed at the Annual Meeting in May, with Cllr. Billy Shaw being elected by the council in 2025 for a second year in office. The mayor works closely with the Clerk to finalise agendas, and chairs meetings of the full council. The holder of the role of mayor does not make decisions without agreement of the full council. Neither they nor the Clerk can decide on behalf of the Council, except in an emergency.

The mayor also has a ceremonial role during their year in office, attending civic, ceremonial and community events. Cllr Shaw has been delighted to open and participate in many community events during this year, including:

- Light Nights-switching on of the town's Christmas lights
- Fishguard and Goodwick Carnival
- Along with other councillors and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Shaw also welcomed the passengers from 27 cruise ships at the Stena port in Goodwick.

Traditionally the mayor will hold their own fundraising events for their chosen local charity. This year Cllr. Shaw has raised £871.52 for Goodwick Scouts.

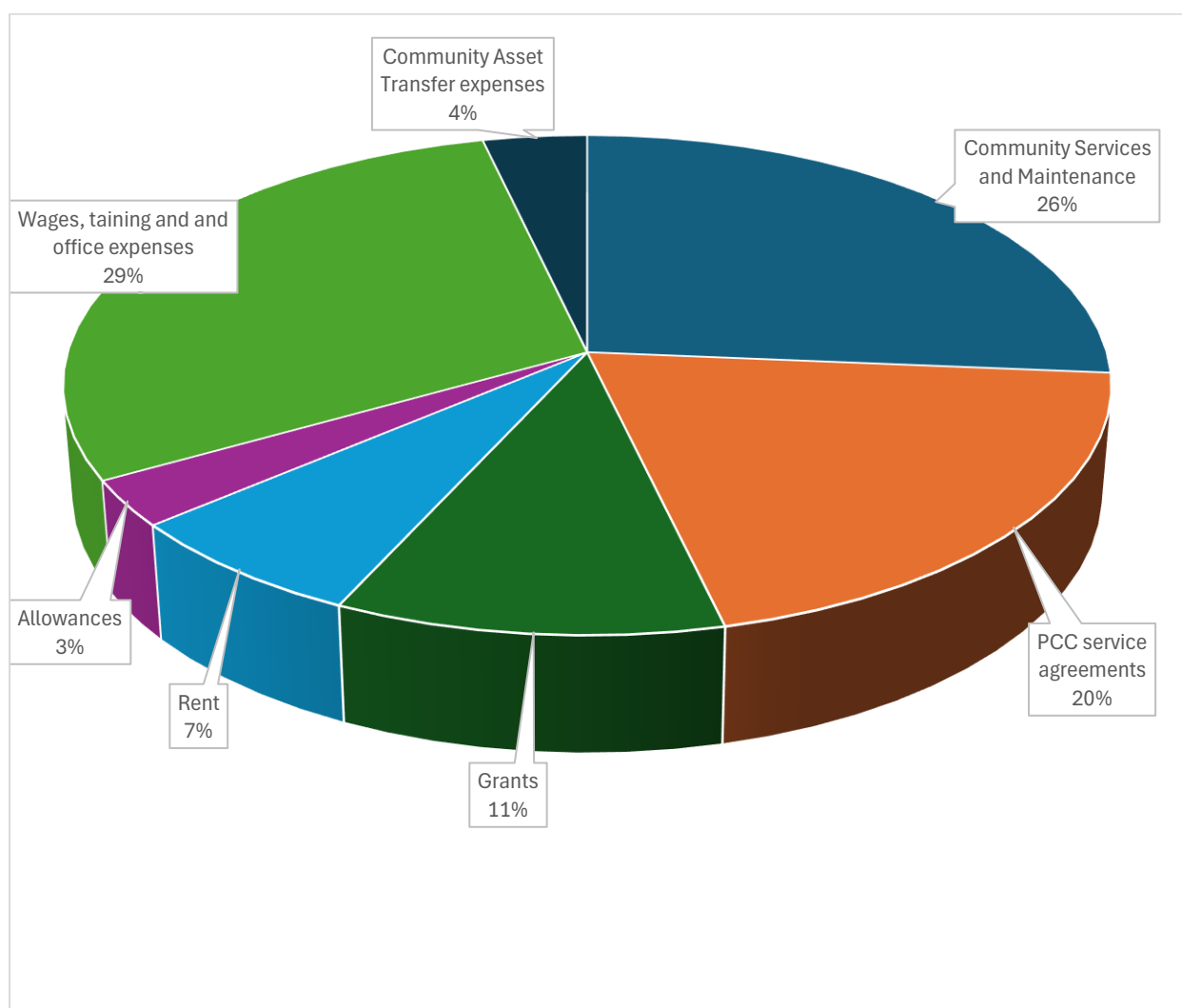


Finance

The Council's income is mainly from the precept, which is collected by the County Council along with the council tax. Every year the Town Council prepares a budget for the forthcoming year, and this decides how much we will ask for.

The precept for 2025/2026 was £147,070.00. This was an increase of £20,000 over the previous year, and first increase since 2022. This increase was made to cover potential costs associated with the Community Asset Transfer of the Town Hall from PCC. Total expenditure in 2025-26 was £139,419.

Expenditure breakdown for 2025-26:



For a more detailed breakdown of income and expenditure please visit our website.

Working with Pembrokeshire County Council

The Town Council has taken on several service level agreements with the County Council. This ensures that services which are important to our residents are not lost.

Current agreements are:

Fishguard library opening (Friday and Thursday evening)	£14,500.00
Contribution to keeping public toilets open (Ffordd yr Efail and Lower Town Quay)	£10,407.39
Paying for all playpark inspections	£1,884.00

Services & Events provided by the Town Council



Floral Displays: Wonderful hanging baskets and planters around the towns from late Spring.

Christmas Lights: Festive lighting displays in Fishguard, Goodwick and along Lower Town Quay.





Christmas Lights switch on events: The Town Council organised switch on events in Fishguard and Goodwick, including school choirs, Goodwick Brass band, a charity market and Santa and his sleigh courtesy of the Round Table.

4 Defibrillators: The Town Council monitor and maintain defibrillators at the Post Office in Fishguard, the Phoenix Centre in Goodwick, the phone box at Stop and Call and the Yacht Club in Lower Town.





Fishguard & Goodwick in Bloom competition: This annual competition was held in the twin towns, with 4 categories of Traditional, Patio, Allotment and Business

Citizen of the Year Award: This was awarded for the mayoral civic year 2025-2026 to Rhys Osborne



Supporting the Community

The Council supports many community groups and events through giving grants. Information on grant eligibility and application forms are available to download from our website.

This year the Council has given £14,478.80 in grants which has supported the many local organisations and events.

Aims and Objectives for 2026-27

Fishguard Town Hall: The Town Council remains in discussion with Pembrokeshire County Council about the proposed Community Asset transfer of Fishguard Town Hall. A business plan has been submitted to PCC for approval, and a public consultation event is to be arranged.

Communication: The Town Council plans to further improve how it communicates with the town's residents. This will include publishing more details on meeting agendas and outcomes and providing easier access to meet and discuss issues with the council. It will seek to improve digital inclusion for underrepresented groups.

Wales in Bloom 2026: The Town Council is taking the lead on entering and preparing the towns of Fishguard and Goodwick for the Wales in Bloom 2026 competition. The new mayor, Cllr Steve Hughes is leading on this initiative, with judging due to take place on 9th July.

Defibrillators: The Town Council is hoping to install two new defibrillators at locations where they have identified a need, Harbour Village and Dyffryn.

Dog fouling: The Council will undertake a public awareness program to promote responsible dog ownership.

Long term and ongoing objectives.

Reduce Waste.	We will reduce waste where possible by not printing unnecessarily. We will use email instead of post if possible.
Reduce carbon footprint and support local businesses.	We will make purchases from local businesses wherever possible.
Supporting the community.	We will continue to run a grant scheme. We will continue to consult with PCC and local organisations/groups.
Health and Wellbeing	We will continue to provide floral displays, Christmas Lights and Christmas events. We will continue to pay for playpark inspections. We will continue to have meetings with police representatives to address resident's concerns. We will continue to enable the testing of bathing water quality.
Civic Pride	We will encourage civic pride by continuing the In Bloom competition. We will support local community litter picks and have litter pickers available for loan. We will liaise with PCC about overgrowth on green spaces. We will liaise with PCC about public items that need repair or maintenance.
Biodiversity	We will continue to liaise with PCC and SWTRA about the reduction of grass cutting and wild flowering. We will continue to develop our biodiversity policy and action plan We will lead on the Wales in Bloom 2026 competition.

Supporting Tourism	We are represented at the North Pembrokeshire Trade & Tourism committee meetings.
Communication	We will continue to share information with residents via our Facebook page, our four noticeboards and website.
Councillors	Councillors will follow the training plan to work within legislation and guidelines. Councillors will offer help to residents that ask for it.
The Council	The Council will continue to support the community to the best of its ability. The Council will be accessible and inclusive.