

Chart Sutton Parish Council Report for the year to 31st March 2010

This was the second year of the four-year term of the Council. Chart Sutton Councillors have all undertaken to act in accordance with a Code of Conduct based on a national model. Miss Cathryn Draper joined the Council in September 2009. In February this year the Council was shocked and saddened by the sudden loss of the Chairman, Ann Rollinson, who had served the Council for 34 years, the last 10 of which had been in the role of Chairman. The Council will be required to co-opt a further Member to fill the Councillor vacancy as soon as possible and Cllr Forknall has been elected as the Chairman for the remainder of the year.

Activities of the Council are regularly reported in the bi-monthly Village News, which is distributed free to all households in the parish. Fortunately, one or two local businesses have taken advertising space, although more would be welcome. The income from the advertisements helps to cover the cost of producing the Newsletter. In addition, the Council has a web site at www.chartsuttonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk where Minutes are published and a lot of useful information is displayed. The Council is grateful to KCC for providing the web site free of charge. The Council also has a Publication Scheme required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby copies of particular Council documentation are available upon request.

The following are brief comments on some Council activities:-

The Council was mainly financed in two ways. Firstly, a precept of £13,200 was raised on local householders, collected with the Council Tax. This amounted to £31.97 for a Band "D" property. Then, the Borough Council provided an allowance to assist with such matters as maintenance of the Memorial Playing Field and grass cutting around the village, as well as maintenance of our one streetlight. The draft Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2008/09 were reproduced with the June 2009 edition of Village News and these were subsequently audited unchanged. A first draft of the figures for 2009/10 is given overleaf. Copies of audited Annual Returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

There was no major expenditure during the year. The Council paid for the new Pavilion Building Regulations to be prepared at a cost of £1625 and received grants totalling £1250 towards this cost. The Council continues to try to build reserves to fund the replacement pavilion at the Playing Field and the planning application for this large project has now been Granted Permission by Maidstone Borough Council. Fund raising for the Pavilion is ongoing and a Textile Bank has been sited at the Village Hall with all revenue received going to the Pavilion Fund. The Council made some small donations during the year to a number of charities including the Three Suttons Help Line, Age Concern, Victim Support and Kenward Trust. The Community Shop was Granted Permission by Maidstone Borough Council for a temporary 3-year site adjacent to Leach Motors and the Chart Sutton Community Shop Association opened the Shop on the Village Green in December 2009.

During the year the Council was consulted on around thirty planning applications. Details of planning developments are given in each edition of Village News. The Council's Planning Committee usually meets prior to the full Council meeting each month when new applications are considered and decisions made. Details of these meetings can be found on the Council website, on the noticeboards, or by contacting the clerk. In considering its views on planning applications, the Council continues to put forward recommendations that it feels best represent the interests of local parishioners, but the Borough Council does not always agree with us!

The Council meets regularly at the Village Hall at 7.45pm on the second Monday monthly (with the exceptions of January which is held on the fourth Monday and February and August when there is no meeting) and parishioners are welcome to attend. Parishioners are given an opportunity to raise matters at the start of every meeting. Councillors or the Clerk can be contacted direct when more urgent issues arise. Their contact details appear on the village noticeboards, on the website and in the Village News.

CHART SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Receipts and Payments Summary for the Year to 31st March 2010

2008/09	RECEIPTS	2009/10
£		£
12,000	Parish Precept	13,200
6,390	MBC - Concurrent Functions	6,420
1,000	MBC - Additional Grants	1,250
1,000	KCC - Grants	1,000
1,499	Playing Fields - Lettings	1,939
16	Wayleaves/Licences	17
255	Advertising - Village News	270
100	Inland Revenue - Online Reporting Grant	75
36	Other Income	220
---	Key Deposit	100
546	Bank Interest	24
1,277	VAT - Reimbursement	385
24,119	TOTAL RECEIPTS	24,900
2008/09	PAYMENTS	2009/10
£		£
	General Administration	
5,724	Salaries	6,566
2,461	Running Expenses	1,695
135	Audit Fees	195
602	Insurance	732
	Concurrent Functions	
3,182	Playing Field	4,240
1,344	Open Spaces	936
76	Street Lighting	110
180	Training	80
1,409	Village News	1,474
84	Neighbourhood Watch	---
235	Donations	800
389	Contingencies	200
890	Street Sweeping	1,050
1,998	Pavilion	1,902
1,223	VAT - to be reimbursed	1,206
19,932	TOTAL PAYMENTS	21,186