

Chart Sutton Parish Council

Report for the year to 31st March 2014

This was the second year of the four-year term of the Council. Following the departure of Mike Brown last year, a further vacancy was created which has yet to be filled. The Council currently has two vacancies; further information can be obtained from the Clerk or any of the current Councillors.

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 £19,500 was raised on local householders, collected with the Council Tax. This amounted to £48.79 for a Band "D" property. Then, the Borough Council provided an allowance (known as the Parish Services Scheme, which replaced the Concurrent Functions Grant) to assist with such matters as maintenance of the Memorial Playing Field and grass cutting around the village, maintenance of the play area, an allowance for the use of our noticeboards and a one off allowance for this year only, for the maintenance of our one streetlight. The draft Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2012/13 were reproduced with the June 2013 edition of Village News and these were subsequently audited unchanged. A first draft of the figures for 2013/14 is given overleaf. Copies of audited Annual Returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

The most significant expenditure during the year was for the refurbishment of the five noticeboards at a cost of £425 and cutting back the oak tree in the Village Hall car park, at a cost of £380. The Community Shop has now been open for several years and has been vital to the local community especially during the recent floods and the heavy snow in previous winters. The shop is entirely run by volunteers and new volunteers are always much appreciated. We also have an outreach Post Office in the shop on Tuesdays and Fridays 10am – 2pm.

During the year the Council was consulted on around seventeen 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 2014

2012/13	RECEIPTS	2013/14
£		£
17,000	Parish Precept	19,500
4,560	MBC - Concurrent Functions	0
0	MBC – Parish Service Scheme	2,296
0	MBC - Additional Grants	1,667
1,000	KCC - Grants	1,945
1,597	Playing Fields - Lettings	2,184
18	Wayleaves/Licences	19
570	Advertising - Village News	430
665	Other Income	353
28	Bank Interest	25
2,549	VAT – Reimbursement received from HMRC	879
27,987	TOTAL RECEIPTS	29,298

2012/13	PAYMENTS	2013/14
£		£
	General Administration	
6,289	Salaries	7,755
2,207	Running Expenses (excl.donations see below)	1,561
345	Audit Fees	260
608	Insurance	595
	Concurrent Functions	
2,275	Playing Field	0
815	Open Spaces	0
72	Street Lighting	0
	Parish Services Scheme	
0	Playing Field	1,883
0	Open Spaces	984
0	Street Lighting	42
0	Other Services	429
0	Training	0
2,215	Village News	1,828
0	Neighbourhood Watch	0
250	Donations	300
900	Contingencies	84
1,223	Street Sweeping	1,153
8,368	Pavilion	0
2,369	VAT (on payments)	805
27,936	TOTAL PAYMENTS	17,679