

## **Chart Sutton Parish Council Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

This was the third year of the four-year term of the Council. Mr Rob Jull joined the Council in December 2014. The Council currently has one vacancy; 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](http://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 three ways. Firstly, a precept of £20,000 was raised on local householders, collected with the Council Tax. This amounted to £50.80 for a Band "D" property. Then, the Borough Council provided an allowance of £2,225, known as the Parish Services Scheme, to assist with such matters as maintenance of the Memorial Playing Field and grass cutting around the village, maintenance of the play area, and an allowance for the use of our noticeboards. In addition to this the Council received a grant from Maidstone Borough Council for £1,695 being a Local Council Tax Support Payment. The draft Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2013/14 were reproduced with the June 2014 edition of Village News and these were subsequently audited unchanged. A first draft of the figures for 2014/15 is given overleaf. Copies of audited Annual Returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

The most significant expenditures during the year were:- cutting back the Leylandii tree on the Village Green, at a cost of £280; the purchase of 'No Parking Signs' for Amber Way at a cost of £212.57; renewal of the Shop on the Green planning application fee £192.50. The Parish Council also purchased new speedwatch equipment, however, this was funded by a grant from County Councillor Eric Hotson's Member Fund.

The Community Shop has now been open for several years and has been vital to the local community especially during the 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. Renewed planning permission has been granted for the shop until April 2018.

During the year the Council was consulted on around twenty five 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 2015

2013/14	RECEIPTS	2014/15
£		£
19,500	Parish Precept	20,000
2,296	MBC – Parish Service Scheme	2,225
1,667	MBC - Additional Grants	1,695
1,945	KCC - Grants	1,150
2,184	Playing Fields - Lettings	2,100
19	Wayleaves/Licences	19
430	Advertising - Village News	730
353	Other Income	377
25	HSBC Bank Interest	29
	Santander Bond Account Interest	207
879	VAT – Reimbursement received from HMRC	1333
29,298	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	29,865

2013/14	PAYMENTS	2014/15
£		£
	General Administration	
7,755	Salaries	7,449
1,561	Running Expenses (excl.donations see below)	1,755
260	Audit Fees	260
595	Insurance	502
	Parish Services Scheme	
1,883	Playing Field	2,175
984	Open Spaces	979
42	Street Lighting	42
429	Other Services	60
0	Training	0
1,828	Village News	2,079
0	Neighbourhood Watch	0
300	Donations	250
84	Contingencies	2,290
1,153	Street Sweeping	1,185
0	Pavilion	30
805	VAT (on payments)	1,333
17,679	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	20,389