

Chart Sutton Parish Council Report for the year to 31st March 2016

This was the final year of the four-year term of the Council. 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 always 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 three ways. Firstly, a precept of £20,500 was raised on local householders, collected with the Council Tax. This amounted to £50.09 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 £1,181 being a Local Council Tax Support Payment. The draft Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2014/15 were reproduced with the June 2015 edition of Village News and these were subsequently audited unchanged. A first draft of the figures for 2015/16 is given overleaf. Copies of audited Annual Returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

The most significant expenditures during the year were:- replacement of the fencing at the Memorial Playing Field, at a cost of £2,940.00 (although a grant of £1,150.00 was kindly provided by Cllr Hotson from his 2014/15 Member Fund towards this); the repair/refurbishment of the footpath from the village to the Memorial Playing Field at a cost of £3,181.42; purchase of the new cabin for the Shop on the Green at a cost of £3,800.00; purchase of a defibrillator & accessories at a cost of £1122.00; repair/upgrade of play area at a cost of £367.46.

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 2016

2014/15	RECEIPTS	2015/16
£		£
20,000	Parish Precept	20,500
2,225	MBC – Parish Service Scheme	2,225
1,695	MBC - Additional Grants	1,181
1,150	KCC - Grants	
2,100	Playing Fields - Lettings	2,292
19	Wayleaves/Licences	19
730	Advertising - Village News	1160
377	Other Income	322
29	HSBC Bank Interest	31
207	Santander Bond Account Interest	195
1333	VAT – Reimbursement received from HMRC	2,610*
29,865	TOTAL RECEIPTS	30,536
2014/15	PAYMENTS	2015/16
£		£
	General Administration	
7,449	Salaries	7,664
	PAYE	19
1,755	Running Expenses (excl.donations see below)	1,792
260	Audit Fees	275
502	Insurance	506
	Parish Services Scheme	
2,175	Playing Field	5,751
979	Open Spaces	903
42	Street Lighting	46
60	Other Services	0
0	Training	0
2,079	Village News	2,060
0	Neighbourhood Watch	0
250	Donations/S137	4,050
2,290	Contingencies	4,668
1,185	Street Sweeping	1,378
30	Pavilion	215
1,333	VAT (on payments)	2,681
20,389	TOTAL PAYMENTS	32,006

*VAT reimbursement of £71 due from HMRC as at 31st March 2016