

# SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2016

The attached Statement of Accounts shows a comparison of the last 6 financial years against actual expenditure for 2015-16.

The income and expenditure for 2014-5 and 2015-6 budgets include costs associated with the Neighbourhood Plan for Sherborne St John which is now being produced with the help of professional consultants.

### Last year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

During the year the Parish Council has nearly completed the transfer of all funds into one account held at Lloyds. Once interest rates improve the Parish Council will then be in a position to put funds on deposit until they are needed. They hope in this way to create a small income source in the future.

Much of the funding from BDBC has now been received re the renovations at the Chute Pavilion and Recreation ground and the last part of the project – the tennis courts – is just about to be started. The work will now be totally resurfacing the courts and re-fencing. This will mean an increase in the funds provided by the Parish Council but there are sufficient reserves to complete all the work together with donations from the tennis club and a grant from the Hampshire Playing Fields Association. The courts when finished will then be in excellent condition for at least the next 10 years and with the improvements the Parish Council anticipate a much larger number of people both using the courts and joining the tennis club.

Our annual precept was £22,700. This is contributed by each council tax payer in the parish and was based on 538 band D equivalent properties in the parish. The average precept per property was £43.53. This year's precept is £27,000 but is based on 635 band D properties so the average rate was only £42.55 it is hoped to continue to hold the precept down.

- Other Receipts in total remained similar to the previous year. The solar panels continue to bring in income and the total is within £590 of paying for the cost of the original installation. So soon they will hopefully be providing a source of yearly income in the order of £2-3,000. The Village Hall also continues to repay £3,000 a year of the loan made by the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council have received further grants of £9,000 to pay for the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan with the overall grants totalling £16,000. This has meant that the Parish Council have not had to contribute as much as originally planned towards the overall costs.
- The Staff Costs cover our Parish Clerk, our Village Hall and Chute Pavilion caretaker and our village litter picker. Costs have gone up during the year due to extra time spent on work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and extra hours to pay for a caretaker at the Chute Pavilion.
- Points of note with regard to Other Expenditure net of VAT where appropriate during the year were:
  - Insurance of £2,410 – three year fixed contract
  - £3,562 Ground maintenance in Village provided by BDBC – this will rise next year as it will include allotment hedges on Elm Road & Sunnyside.
  - £4,160 charge for two Speed Indication Devices

The VHMC loan now stands at £18,250 which is being repaid at £250 per month.

The overall position for last year resulted in PC's reserves in total of £54,580. However, it must be noted much of this figure is already apportioned in the reserves to ensure the viability of the Parish financially:

- £20,000 – towards the Chute improvement project
- £11,000 – prudent management requires approximately ½ year's precept in hand
- £10,000 – Reserve re Chute Pavilion and grounds for maintenance etc
- £ 3,000 – To complete the Neighbourhood Plan
- £ 3,000 - Addition caretaker salary
- £ 1,000 – new computer and printer for the Clerk
- £ 800 – Refundable Allotment deposits
- £ 2,000 – new Chute signage

## **This year – BUDGET**

The costs of running our parish council have remained largely the same as last year. However, with the addition of caretaker hours, the Parish Council requested a Precept from BDBC of £27,000 to ensure that the amount charged per house will not exceed the cost of last year (up because of a rise in the number of homes to 635).

Looking at Other income - we receive very little investment income at present although we hope to improve this situation in the future with the realignment of the Parish Bank accounts. It must be noted that while Chute income has remained level, costs have risen and there has been a large amount of maintenance work done at the facility – such as redecoration and new flooring - it must be stressed this income must also fund ongoing maintenance at the Chute and was specifically noted by the Clerk in her grant application to BDBC as sufficient to maintain the facilities otherwise they would not have agreed the grant.

This has meant a review of the hire charges at the Pavilion which have not been altered for over 4 years to commercial £21.60, £17.28 non-commercial, £13.82 parish residents per hour, with some reductions in charges to regular users in thanks for their continued support and contribution to the well-being of the parish and its facilities. We continue to receive grants from BDBC of around £6000 towards ground maintenance, grass cutting & litter picking. It must be noted that these do not cover actual costs and may not be allocated in future years due to the current economic situation.

Turning to Expenditure - we are planning for the existing complement of staff, and we intend to maintain the current levels of other expenditure and to continue to upgrade facilities at the Parish Council's recreation ground and Pavilion. It has been noted from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation that better playground facilities for the older children in the village is a popular choice for the allocation of funds at the recreation ground and, in answer to that parishioner feedback, this will be a primary focus of the PC to be delivered over the coming term.

We are aiming to spend within our means and are budgeting for reserves of the PC and the Chute at the end of this year to be fiscally adequate.

Cllr Davies/Parish Clerk

May 2016