

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

The attached Statement of Accounts shows a comparison of the last 6 financial years against actual expenditure for 2016-17.

### Last year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

Our annual precept was £27,000. This is contributed by each council tax payer in the parish and was based on 635 band D equivalent properties in the parish. The average precept per property was £42.55.

Some highlights:

- The solar panels on the Chute are now completely paid off and will now provide a source of income around £3,000 each year. The Village Hall also continues to repay £3,000 a year off the loan made by the Parish Council.
- The Staff Costs cover our Parish Clerk, our Chute Pavilion caretaker and our village litter picker. Costs have increased slightly from the previous year but in line with expectations.
- Points of note with regard to Other Expenditure net of VAT where appropriate during the year were:
  - Insurance of £2,508 – three-year fixed contract
  - £3,458 Ground maintenance in Village provided by BDBC.
  - £4,477 charge for Speed Indication Devices

The Village Hall loan now stands at £15,250 which is being repaid at £250 per month.

The overall position for last year resulted in PC's reserves in total of £40,940 which is a reduction on previous years but a considerable amount has been spent in year to bring the Chute up to date in terms of new chairs, electrics, plumbing, fire protection etc. and a regular maintenance schedule has been implemented by the Parish Clerk to ensure that costs can be planned more effectively moving forward. However, it must be noted that this figure is fiscally sound and the majority of it is already apportioned in the reserves (for example as a provision to replace/repair the Chute Pavilion roof) to ensure the viability of the Parish financially.

### This year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

The costs of running our Parish Council have increased over last year and the number of grants available to the Parish Council from both Hampshire and Basingstoke and Deane have been substantially reduced. In addition, the Allotments within the village are owned by the National Trust and, after many years without, they have now re-instigated a yearly rental charge. The Clerk negotiated a fair agreement which is fixed for the next three years and will increase by RPI thereafter.

As a result of these factors and in order to not run a deficit budget in 2017/18 this year's precept has increased to £27,700 and is based on 629 band D properties so the average rate is now £44.03. This is a 3.5% uplift on 2016/17. This is a regrettable yet necessary increase, in order to maintain the current level of services in light of increased costs and lower funding from other areas of local government. To put this into context this is only 25p per year more per Band D household than in 2012/13. The Parish Council will always work hard to minimise the impact of any tax rises on the residents. The annual rental for our allotments have also increased to £25 for a small, £45 for a medium and £55 for a large plot to cover the Nation Trust rental charge.

In terms of Other income - we receive very little investment income at present although we hope to improve this situation now that the Clerk has successfully aligned the Parish Bank accounts. The Chute Pavilion hire charges were reviewed last year and the Chute now covers its costs and has a healthy pipeline of regular and ad-hoc bookings.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been voted on by The Parish and looks set for final agreement at a Full Council Meeting of Basingstoke and Deane on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The Parish Council will now endeavour to ensure that any S106, CIL and Government New Homes Bonuses gained from the Cranes Road development are invested directly into the village to address road safety and to improve other infrastructure.

As always, we are aiming to spend within our means and are budgeting for reserves of the Parish Council and the Chute at the end of this year and in the future to be fiscally adequate.

Cllr Davies

May 2017