

Parish Financial Report

The Parish Clerk reported that the balance in the Parish bank account at 31/03/2016 was £18,567.54, an increase of some £1700 on the previous year. The PC has traditionally had very small reserves and has been increasing them over the last few years, to ensure there is enough money to meet any unexpected expenses, such as like major work being needed at the allotments site or the war memorial site.

During the year the Parish Council changed to a different website provider, there having been continuing problems with the previous provider. Funding for this came from the “future projects” fund the PC set up a couple of years ago.

The PC made a donation towards the costs of the May Fayre and we also made a donation to the Basingstoke Conservation Volunteers in recognition of their help on Pond Clearance Day. We would be unable to carry out this work without their help; the presence of great crested newts in the pond means we can only do work there if someone involved in the work has a licence to handle with the newts and the Conservation Volunteers have such a licence.

We also made a contribution towards the cost of grass cutting at the old churchyard in Ecchinswell. And we provided bulbs and planters for a “bulb planting project” involving children from the school.

We have continued to use the services of the Parish Lengthsman to carry out projects in the parish including cleaning road signs and cutting back vegetation round them, additional litter picking in areas not covered by the Litter Wardens, work on trees at Digweeds and work at the allotment site. This scheme is very beneficial to the parish, allowing us to carry out these tasks at no expense to the residents.

The precept for 2015/2016 was set at £11,468, an increase of just £169 on the previous year. This means that the precept for 2015/2016 was just £200 higher than that for 2011/2012.

As usual, apart from the precept, we also received an additional grant of £1,100 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, a grant to cover the cost of the litter wardens and a grant contributing to the cost of grass cutting in the parish, plus the Council Tax grant of £835. The other source of Parish Council funding is the rents from the allotments

The principal expenditures, as always, are:

- Clerk's salary, including PAYE
- Village maintenance
- Admin costs, including postage, stationery phone/computer costs
- Insurance premium
- Hire of halls
- Subscriptions and affiliations

The accounts for the year ending 31/03/2016 are due to be audited by the internal auditor next week.