**Parish Financial report 31 March 2012**

The Parish Clerk reported that the balance in the Parish bank account at 31/03/2012 was £17,264.60, of which £4,532.87 was S106 money from the development at Palmers Yard.

The Parish Council has continued to spend the S106 money on projects throughout the parish. A new water system has been installed at the Allotments; this was installed at the end of the last financial year and paid for in this financial year. It is already showing a benefit in reduced water bills. And an interpretative map board has been put up at the pond, showing Rights of Way in the area; a grant of 50% towards the cost was obtained from Hampshire County Council.

The Parish Council has some ideas for spending more of the remaining S106 money - work to clear an overgrown part of the Allotments site is in hand, providing more plots to rent out. And the purchase of some tools to maintain the common areas of the allotments is being considered. Suggestions for the use of the remaining money - which must be spent on open spaces or play areas - would be welcome.

The precept was set at £11,261for the year 2011/2012; the increase from the previous year being largely to meet the cost of an increase in the Clerk's hours of work from 10 to 12 hours per week. We also received an additional grant of £1,110 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. A further grant from BDBC paid for the cost of litter picking throughout the parish.

The precept for 2012/2013 was maintained at the level set for the previous year. This has mainly been achieved by making savings in the cost of village maintenance; principally, arranging for Hampshire Highways to take over responsibility for the cutting of the bank at Palmers Yard, arranging for the United Reformed Church to take over maintenance of their churchyard, and transferring the responsibility for the maintenance of the old churchyard in the south of Ecchinswell to the church; for the present at least, it has been agreed that this area will remain part of the Parish Council's maintenance contract, with the church and the Parish Council each paying 50% of the cost.

In the coming year there will again be an additional grant from BDBC and further income to cover the litter picking expenses. It is, however, uncertain whether these grants will be continued in future years and the Parish Council might have to make further savings to compensate for this.

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 31/03/2012 have been audited by the internal auditor and will shortly be sent to the Audit Commission.