

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY, 27 APRIL 2010

At the end of the Parish Council's financial year on 31 March, the accounts showed a healthy balance of nearly £62,000. However, the income has been inflated by the early receipt of half of the next year's precept so to be realistic the total income for the year should be reduced to around £45,000.

Of course, we are in the fashion with a sizeable loan outstanding which was obtained last year for the building of our excellent sports pavilion. We are confident however that we will be able to repay it over the next 14 years. We have now made two repayments and the capital amount outstanding has dropped below £50,000.

This additional annual burden does of course mean that other projects are that bit more difficult to reasonably afford. In these difficult financial times with low interest rates reducing everyone's incomes, it has been pleasing to receive some unexpected grants and prizes for which the Parish Council is very grateful.

It is satisfying to be able to report that the Parish Council has been able to hold the precept for 2010/11 and that Sedlescombe has maintained its 16th position in the table of 32 Rother District parishes.

It may not be possible to always keep the precept at a low level however because the Parish Council does have legal obligations that it must fulfil, for example, its contribution to the maintenance of the first part of Ladybird Lane required since the Sportsfield was bought by the Parish Council from Pestalozzi Village in 1985. The Lane is in a very poor state of repair and a reasonable contribution will have to be made sometime soon.

However, residents can be assured that all non-obligatory expenditure is always given full consideration and wherever possible, grants are sought to help ease the Council Tax burden. This is currently how we expect to fund the majority of the cost of refurbishing the pump and its railings and the pumphouse and we are awaiting the result of our application to the Warr Partnership for a major Leader Plus grant towards the project. The cost of the total project is expected to be about £12,000.