

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY, 26 APRIL 2011

In my financial report to last year's Assembly, I mentioned that the Council was in the process of looking for funding towards refurbishment of the village pump and the pumphouse on the Village Green. Thanks to generous help from the Warr Partnership which provided 80% of the cost and local fund-raising which paid for the remaining 20%, the whole project has been successfully completed at no cost to the Sedlescombe Council Taxpayer. A second project was entirely funded by the Battle Partnership. This enabled the production of a booklet recording the history of the pump as well as a demonstration pump and trolley thanks to Reg Glew.

Another project that has been completed this year, again at no cost to the Sedlescombe Council Taxpayer, is replacement of the village sign on the Green. The Council agreed that this would be an appropriate use of the prize money received from the 2009 Village of the Year Competition and money from a Quality Council grant. The original design dating from the 1950s has been retained but the new sign is made out of polyurethane resin and should be long-lasting.

We reached the end of 2010/11 with some jobs still outstanding. These include replacement of the front Sportsfield fence and planting of a hedge which will be the final expense from the long-running Sportsfield Fund and should be complete before the end of 2011. There are some small jobs to be done around the pump such as sorting out the ceiling and cementing the base and these will be done soon.

A major cost for the 2011/12 financial year that has just started is a contribution towards the repair of Ladybird Lane as far as the Sportsfield Car Park. In accordance with an agreement made with Pestalozzi in 1985, the Parish Council is required to help with the cost of the work which is long overdue. £4,000 has been allocated by the Council.

The cost of training for the three new councillors and updates for the rest and myself has been included in the budget but the good news is that, without a Parish Council election, a saving of up to £2,000 has been made.

The Council may use savings in its budget to repair the bus shelter outside Pollards and is considering whether the playground fence by the river should be replaced with a metal one. Another major concern is what to do about the tennis courts now that the surface is beginning to break down.

Finally, the Council is looking for sponsorship for placing six flower troughs on the top parts of the Green to stop vehicles driving over it or parking on it. If anyone would like to help, please let me know.