

Parish Financial Report 31 March 2013

The parish clerk reported that the balance in the parish bank account at 31/03/2103 was £15,624.16, of which £3,966.44 was S106 money remaining from the development at Palmer's Yard. This looks like a reduction from the previous year's balance of £17,246.60 but the previous year's figure was inflated by the fact that BDBC paid us the current year's grant for litter collection in the last financial year. Taking that out of the equation, the balance in the bank has actually increased by £1,208.16.

The parish council is continuing to spend the S106 money on projects throughout the parish. During the year we made a donation towards the cost of the Village Fete and to a Picnic on the Green at Bishops Green, to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. We also bought a wheel barrow for use on common areas throughout the parish.

The parish council would welcome suggestions on how to spend the remainder of the S106 money, which must be spent on open spaces or play areas.

During the year there was additional expense in the setting up of a new website, following the decision by BDBC that they could not continue providing that service for free. BDBC did, however, provide a grant which covered most of the cost of the initial set up of the new website. It is now up and running - www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

The precept for 2012/2013 was set at £11,261, which was the same as the previous year. During that year we also received an additional grant of £1,100 from BDBC. A further grant from BDBC (received in the previous financial year) paid for the cost of litter picking throughout the parish.

The precept for the current financial year, 2013/2014, was reduced by £500 to £10,761. Residents will have noticed, however, from their Council Tax bills that the part payable to the parish council has increased slightly. This resulted from Central Govt's decision to localise Council Tax support - meaning BDBC were responsible for it rather than Central Govt. The resulting change in the tax base would have meant a greater increase in the parish council's portion of the Council Tax bill but this was avoided by the parish council reducing its precept request.

In the current financial year there will again be an additional grant from BDBC and further income to cover 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 31/03/2013 have been audited by the internal auditor and will shortly be sent to the external auditor.