

Parish Financial Report 31 March 2014

The Parish Clerk reported that the balance in the Parish bank account at 31/03/2014 was £14,918.75, of which £1,229.05 was S106 money remaining from the development at Palmers Yard. This is a slight reduction on last year, due to the spending of some of the S106 money. This was spent on work to repair the water system at the allotment site, equipment for use on the common areas at the allotments, necessary work on trees at Ecchinswell pond, and renovations to the parish notice boards in Bishops Green.

During the year the Parish Council again made a donation towards the costs of the May Fayre, which was a very successful event, enjoyed by many throughout the parish.

The Parish Council is hoping to spend the balance of the S106 money, on play areas and open spaces, as soon as possible and one of the new Cllrs has been tasked with producing a programme to achieve this.

The precept for 2013/2014 was set at £10,761, which was a reduction of £500 on the previous year. This reduction was made possible by the receipt of a Council Tax grant of £904 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. This grant was originally provided to District and Borough Councils by central Government, to compensate for the introduction of the localization of Council Tax support – meaning BDBC were responsible for it rather than Central Government. Central Government intended that this money be passed on to Parish Councils by the District and Borough Councils, which is what BDBC did – unlike in some areas, where the funding wasn't passed on to Parish Councils.

[Residents will have noticed, however, from their Council Tax Bills, that the portion payable to the Parish Council has increased slightly. This resulted from the localization of Council Tax support but this increase would have been even greater if the Parish Council hadn't reduced its precept request.]

As usual 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. The other source of Parish Council funding is the rents from the allotments – all of which are currently leased out.

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 31/03/2014 have been audited by the internal auditor and have been sent to the external auditor.