

Chairman's Annual Report 2010/11

Members of Parish Council:-

John Kingston, Dee Ferris, Paul Hutchings, Steve Holloway and myself. The Clerk to the Parish Council is Maxine Yule.

My thanks go to them for their efforts throughout the year, particularly to Max who has guided me during my first year as Chairman.

Ward Councillor.

Our local Ward Councillor remains Peter Bingham, who unfortunately had a spell away from duties due to illness during the last year. I'm pleased to say that he is back with us. He continues to cascade information down from County Hall, and investigates issues on our behalf that are raised at parish meetings.

He is always available for help and guidance, and his efforts are much appreciated.

Brief Financial Report 2010/11

During the year we secured Gross Income of	£ 7,893	(£ 10,095)
Incurred Gross expenditure of	£ 12,961	(£ 8,782)
Net deficit (2010/11)	(£ 5,067)	(£ 1,313)
Add Reserves and balance brought forward	£ 7,362	(£ 6,049)
<hr/> A reserve and surplus to be carried forward 2010/11	<hr/> £ 2,295	<hr/> (£ 7,362)

Notes - *Includes transfer of funds to Gatcombe & Chillerton News.* £ 554
Figures include use of reserves to fund new play equipment £ 6,216
This report is based on figures that are at present UNAUDITED.
Figures shown in brackets are for 2009/10

Precept for 2011/12

The precept for 2011/12 has been set at £7530.15, which is about 2% increase on last year. This is necessary to retain the facilities and work of the Parish Council, and has been kept to the minimum possible.

Newsletter

The "ownership" of the Newsletter has now been removed from the Parish Council, (as was always planned), into the hands of Steve Holloway and Jill Shaw as part of their Village Events efforts. The Parish Council communicates with the parishioners by a quarterly report in the Newsletter, which is delivered to every home in the Parish.

The Newsletter continues to be the envy of most Parishes on the Island, with its informative and interesting articles.

Website

Due to a lack of use, and the costs involved in further improving the Parish Website, it has been decided to keep maintenance to a minimum, with the basic information and Meeting Agendas and Minutes available.

The Newsletter will still be available to read and download quarterly along with the annual Schedule for the Flower Show. As last year, we hope to put photographs of all the scarecrows on the website - thanks to Paul Hutchings for doing this!

Play Area.

The most exciting work done by the Parish Council during the last year has been the installation of a new piece of equipment in the 'play area.'

The "Hide & Slide" has replaced the old roundabout which was condemned by the Inspector. It is a fine addition to the play area and should provide fun and enjoyment to the children of the village for many years to come.

My thanks go to Steve Holloway for organising the whole project, and to local farmer, Stephen Burden for his assistance with machinery and knowledge. Without his help, in snow and very cold temperatures, I'm not sure it would have been possible.

Grass Cutting Contract.

The grass cutting contract was due for renewal this year and after a tendering exercise, the winner of the new contract was local resident, David Hayden.

As from April 2011 he will be seen keeping the grass on the Village Green and Play Area tidy for us all. The Parish Council was keen to be able to award this work to a local person, so we were very pleased to be able to do this (AND choose the best value quote,) from a number of a local people.

Community Spirit.

I am frequently informed by people, both in the Parish and around the Island, that it has been noted that a new wave of increased 'community spirit', exists in Gatcombe and Chillerton villages. I have to agree with these views and would like to mention a few examples.

The local Neighbourhood Watch teams have recently been much praised by the Police C.I.D following a house burglary in Chillerton. Apparently the C.I.D are traditionally uncertain of the effectiveness of such schemes, but were very impressed by the reaction of the team and its members. Well done to everyone concerned.

The Scarecrow Festival was such a huge success last year that it is taking place again this year. This received much support and even a National Award from the Beautiful South Awards for Tourism. Let's hope that this year's event is equally successful.

Quiz evenings continue to be held in Chillerton and are very successful. Local causes benefit from any surplus of funds raised, and up to 80 people regularly attend and enjoy these evenings. If you would like to pit your brains against them I'm sure you would be very welcome.

The Annual Flower Show will be held as usual this year thanks to the efforts of the Horticultural Society. We hope for good weather and continued increase in entries. This is the biggest village event of each year and deserves your continued support.

Community Grants.

The Council has been issuing small grants to local good causes. The total for a year is £400, which is issued to a maximum of £100 per quarter. Recent recipients have included the May Day Event 2010, St Olave's Church, the Village Hall Association, Scarecrow Festival and an initiative to have a picnic on Chillerton Down for less mobile senior residents.

Nigel Shaw (Chairman) March 22nd 2011