

ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report – 2010/11

Chair's Report

It has been another busy year as you will see from the reports of the various committees of the parish council

I would like to thank the staff and all the councillors for all their hard work throughout this last year.

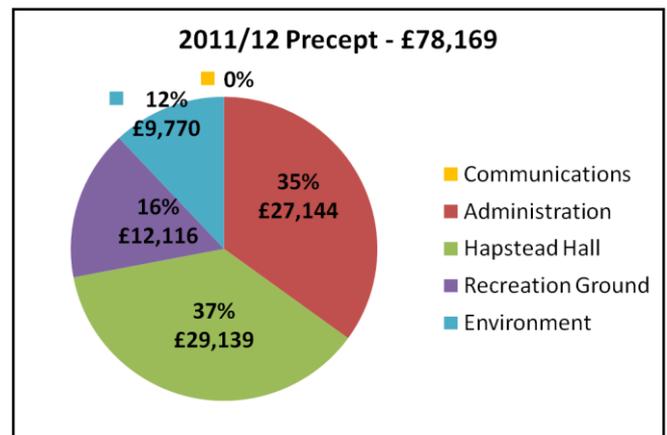
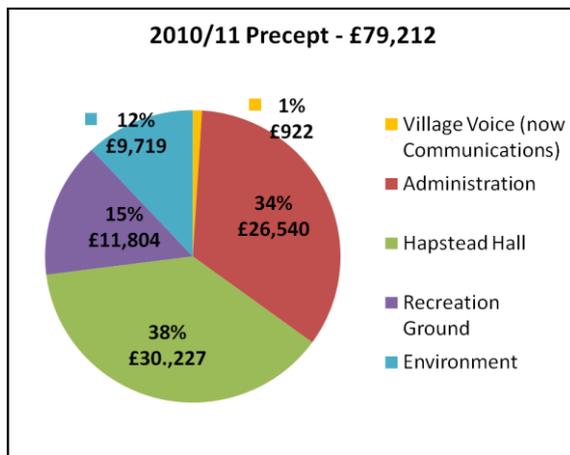
I am particularly grateful for the highly professional support I and other Councillors receive from the Parish Clerk, Anne Rumble, and our newly appointed Financial Officer, Rachel Jarvis. As well as supporting the Parish Council and its committees in their work, Anne provides a point of reference for all villagers via telephone, email, and at her weekly Tuesday morning surgeries in Hapstead Hall. Rachel maintains our accounts in apple pie order and ensures that we comply with the stringent requirements for local government finances. Together the costs of employing Anne and Rachel take up the major part of our Administration budget. Although Parish Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance, none of the Councillors take advantage of this.

Again without the input and help from the Ardingly Community none of this would run so smoothly and I would like to thank you all for your continued interest and enthusiasm.

George Ruse

Chair, Ardingly Parish Council

Finance Committee



We are showing this year's and last year's Precept in pie chart form to highlight our major areas of expenditure. The other sections of this report give more detail of what services this provides to the village.

We should end this financial year (31 March) within our budget for 2010/11 and have been able to hold the Precept for the coming year at a slightly lower level.

There will be challenges ahead – not least the parlous state of the Recreation Ground Pavilion, but the Parish Council finances remain in a sound state with strong reserves.

David Hadden

Vice Chair of Parish Council and Chair of Finance Committee

Recreation Ground Committee

The recreation ground continues to offer a focal point for sporting activities in the village and this winter the pavilion has been the base for a youth club which has met on a weekly basis. The Pavilion has now, with a combination of age and usage reached a point where refurbishment will need to be undertaken if we are to provide a facility that meets the needs of our sports clubs and the increasing interest from youth and toddler groups that are looking for a long term base. At present the building lacks modern disabled access facilities and the space to accommodate all the improvements needed. After consultation with the cricket, football, tennis clubs and various groups who represent youth and toddler organisations in the village, it became apparent that a feasibility study to agree on the best way forward was required. We have formed a small Working Party with Ken Monk as Chair made up of parish councillors and representatives from the sports clubs and youth groups to look at available grants and fundraising ideas. We realise that this is not the best moment in time to start the project, but feel that support for sport and youth is essential at any time. The

February 2011

Parish Council has noticed that the tennis courts in the recreation ground are not used to their full potential. The tennis club is looking for new members and for those that do not wish to join the club, the courts are available for a small hire charge. For bookings please call telephone number: 01444-892457.

Finally, I would like to thank Pat Killian whose contribution to keeping the Recreation Ground tidy is greatly appreciated by all its users.

Mike Brixey

Chair, Recreation Ground Committee

Environment Committee

Once again our thanks go to Ken Monk and his team of green fingered volunteers for the upkeep of flowerbeds around the village.

The public toilets continue to account for the main element of expenditure by this committee. Work to renew and extend the street lights is due to commence next year; in the meantime please report any faults to the parish clerk. The steps outside Hapstead Hall have been widened and a new handrail designed and installed by a local blacksmith. Many thanks to Roy Simmonds for his advice and guidance on this project. The three old style fingerposts in the parish are being restored and a survey of private roads in the village has identified where responsibility lies for their upkeep.

Finally, we greatly appreciate Pat Killian's hard work in all weathers to keep the footways clear.

Sarah Chapman

Chair, Environmental Committee

Traffic Committee

The Traffic Committee was formed at the November Parish Council meeting and comprises Parish Councillors and co-opted residents. The Committee meet regularly to discuss issues relevant to the parish and refer recommendations to the Parish Council for consideration.

The committee is preparing a 'Brief ' to obtain tenders for a Traffic Planning Consultant to advise and make proposals on this matter for submission and agreement by the West Sussex County Council.

Discussions are also taking place in respect of Car Parking in the village, School Travel Plan, Speed Limits, Signs, Police Involvement and the means of obtaining funding over and above that from the Parish Council.

Don Walker

Chair, Traffic Committee

Emergency Planning Committee

The Committee have been working hard to produce the Ardingly Winter Management Plan, which has now been submitted to West Sussex County Council. The plan covers issues such as salting and gritting of roads; advice for volunteers on clearing snow; and care for the vulnerable and elderly, as well as some general advice to residents. Copies are available through the Parish Clerk.

Pam Dennis

Chair, Emergency Planning Committee

Communications Committee

Communications Committee was formed in 2010/11 in order to create consistency across the Village Voice and the village website which is under construction. The Village Voice has gone from strength to strength and continues to be a key communication tool for the village. We changed printers at the end of 2010 and now print for lower cost on re-cycled paper. The Committee particularly wishes to thank Merle Atkins-Phang and Jan Caswell for all their sterling work on the Village Voice; without them, quite literally, we would not have a village newsletter. The village website has made small steps forward and can now be found at www.ardingly.org. Over the coming months the website will be developed further with ability for local groups, societies and charities to own and update their own pages. As a final request, if you have any articles you wish to have included in the Village Voice or would like to help on the website, please do contact the Parish Clerk.

Will Meldrum

Chair, Communications Committee

Planning Committee

Although the Planning Committee incurs no expenditure within the Precept, it fulfils an important Parish Council function in reflecting the villages views on planning applications and making recommendations to the Planning Authority, Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC). It has also been in close discussion with MSDC as to the appropriate level of development in the village to support the medium term Government set targets for

housing in the region. This year it has been much involved in the deliberations over the re-development of the Hanson Plant.

Ken Monk

Chair, Planning Committee

Village Plan published

Our Community Led Plan was published in December following adoption by the Parish Council. It is the result of consultations with the whole community and identifies 18 aims and 40 actions. Some of the projects can be achieved quickly and at little cost, others will need sustained effort over many years to bring about success. A number of actions are already underway.

The Village Plan will be a regular item on the parish council's agenda, to ensure effective communication with residents. A Monitoring Committee has been set up to oversee implementation and monitoring of all the actions identified in the Plan.

There will also be regular updates in the village website and Village Voice newsletter. Parish Council chair George Ruse commented:

"The Village Plan allows the Parish Council to move forward on a whole range of issues, and the process provides a clear focus for future action."

You can view the Village Plan at www.ardingly.org or buy a copy at the Clerk's office on Tuesday mornings.

Sarah Chapman

Councillor

Hapstead Hall

We are lucky as a village to own such a distinctive building at the heart of our community. Over £21,000 of this part of our budget services the 25 year loan taken out when the Hall was modernised in 2008. The balance funds the gap between rental income and the costs of running the building. Rental income has increased since the refurbishment hence the reduction in this part of the budget.

David Hadden/Ken Monk

Councillors

HAPSTEAD HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Another year has passed and I am pleased to say our hall bookings are up, but we still have a few vacant slots, which we would like to fill. The main hall will probably need some decorating shortly, but apart from that, all is well. We have improved outside lighting around the hall, at the back by the Legion and along the front by the road.

We are trying to keep our hiring charges reasonable, but utility charges continue to rise putting extra pressure on finances to the Committee. I urge all residents to support the events run in the hall, a date to note is the 22 March, when the Chalkfoot Theatre make a welcome return.

I would like to say a big thank you to our Hall Clerk, Niki Sanwell, Brian, our Maintenance Man and to Kim, our Cleaner, for the wonderful job they do. However, they will not be getting their million pound bonuses!

The Christmas Fair went very well and we have plans to promote this event and make it even more interesting.

Lastly, many thanks to all the Committee for the work they do and support given to me.

Ken Monk

Chair, Hapstead Hall Management Committee