

Ladies & Gentlemen,

During 1964-65 the re-rating Valuation Assessment of the previous year has now made its impact and the appetite of Local Authorities continue to grow greater to impose heavier taxation. For 1965-66 the Rural District rate for Battle has increased from $2/2^d$ to $2/6^d$ while the East Sussex County rate has increased from $7/5^d$ to $7/6^d$. As regards your own Parish Council of Sedlescombe my report is as follows:-

Financial Statement 1963-64 The draft statement put before you at our last Assembly Meeting held on the 2nd. March 1964 has ^{now} been passed by the District Auditor and ~~£ 15~~ formally presented to you for final adoption. If there is no query would this Financial Statement please be proposed and seconded for approval and adoption?

Draft Financial Statement 1964-65. Draft accounts for this period are now laid on the table for public inspection but you will appreciate that these cannot be approved finally at the Assembly as they have yet to be audited by the District Auditor.

For the year 1964/65 your Parish Council estimated to spend £ 505 but actually spent £ 650 approx. The extra expenditure was due kerbing the whole of the Village Green from the Pump House down to the end of the Green, Cost of litter baskets and expenses in connection with footpaths and village sign. Overall expenditure included a donation of £ 200 to the Village Hall, £ 117 for kerbing of the Village Green, £ 84 for the erection of a bus shelter and £ 95 for the upkeep of the Village Green and keeping it tidy. No expenditure, however, was incurred during the year re provision of a Sports Field.

During this period the Parish Council's Income consisted of a 2d. rate producing £ 252 plus ~~£ 265~~ £ 265, being interest on the invested proceeds of the old Allotment Field. Starting with a Credit Bal. of £ 206 your Parish Council is expected to end the financial year with an estimated Bal. in credit of £ 200. Your Parish Council's finances are, thus, Ladies and Gentlemen, in sound shape. I put these draft accounts forward for your consideration and, ~~£ 200~~ if you so desire, they can be approved and adopted in principle.

Estimated Income & Expenditure for 1965-66. Your Parish Council expects to receive and spend during this period as under:-

<u>Income.</u>	Proceeds of a 1d. rate	= £ 126	
	Interest on Funds invested (Less income tax 8/3d in £)	= £ 224	
	Estimated Cr. Bal. @ 1 April 65	= £ 200	= Total £ 550 550

<u>Expenditure.</u>	Upkeep of Village Green	= £ 70	
	Rent of new Sports Field	= £ 100	
	Administration	± £ 85	
	Donation to Village Hall	£ 50	
	New Village Notice Board	£ 20	
	Footpath Expenses	£ 25	
	Sundries	£ 20	= Total £ 370

Leaving a credit Bal. to carry forward of £ 180 approx. Your Parish Council has made no provision for further herbings of the Village Green. A ~~£ 50~~ donation of £ 50 to the Village Hall ^{has been budgeted} for reasons I shall go into later. In view of all this it was decided that only a 1d. precept need be asked for. Has anyone any point to raise re the actual mechanics of the budget now put forward for 1965-66 ?

Old Allotment Field. Proceeds of the sale of the old Allotment Field ~~which~~ which amounted nett to £ 8,228-19-8d have now been invested as follows:-

5 % Exchequer Stock ^{Stock} 1967 1967	Stock	£ 3635-8-8d worth	@ £ 99 3/4
4 1/2 % Defence Bonds	£ 1000		
5 % National Development Bonds	£ 390 worth		

(arrangement to be in hand to sell more 4 1/2 % Defence Bonds & re-invest to maximum amount permitted in 5 % Nat. Dev. Bond)

It is the intention of your Parish Council to avoid touching this capital as the interest thereof and the now enhanced proceeds of up to a 4d rate should enable, if necessary, all normal demands to be met.

I would add that the Nairne Development Property Co. which now owns and is intending to commence the first phase of building 11 bungalows on the old Allotment Field this spring consulted your Parish Council on what name the new Estate should have. After some considerable discussion it was decided on a majority vote that the name "Park Shaw" be adopted, this being an old local name. The property Co., too, was in favour of this name.

Would anyone like to raise any point now on the old Allotment Field ?

Planning Notification. Although your Parish Council has made so little progress with the Rural District Council of Battle on the question of being notified of planning applications in the Parish, they did appreciate being so consulted by the East Sussex Road Authorities on the new proposed lay-out of the Village Green.

Under the Oxfordshire Plan any extra administrative work by the Planning Authority is obviated with no cost but there are other schemes in West Sussex whereby Parish Councils are notified of all planning applications to the mutual advantage of both Rural District and Parish Councils. So strong is the feeling growing throughout the country that recently Sir. Frank Pearson, M.P. for Clitheroe, has managed to introduce a private members Bill, supported by all parties, to confer the right upon Parish Councils to have notifications of planning applications. In Sussex alone no fewer than 38 parish councils, including your own, have written to their Members of Parliament asking for their support for Sir Frank Pearson's Bill. I am glad to say that our own Member, Mr. Godman Irvine M.P., also supports the Bill, a copy of which is laid on the table for your information.

To my mind, Ladies & Gentlemen, it is only a mere question of time before Parish Councils will have to be notified by law of all planning applications made within their respective parishes but this will not be done unless continual pressure is brought to bear with un-cooperative Planning Authorities. Incidentally no fewer than 9 County Councils and over 50 Rural District Councils in the United Kingdom voluntarily implement in some way or another the policy of notifying parish councils of all ~~parish~~ planning applications in their respective parishes.

Sedlescombe Village Green. During the past year the Village Green was kept clean and tidy, under present conditions a by no means easy task. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the contractor, Mr. Campbell, for keeping the Green so well cut and such a pleasure to the eye.

The accident hazard potential of Brede Lane continues to grow and give concern. In view of this your Council approached the East Sussex County Council a year ago for a new road layout for the Village Green. The road authority kindly went out of its way to consult your Council and on 8 Jan. 1965 their engineer, Mr. Redman attended a special Parish Council Meeting to explain the new proposals. Your Council was glad to see so many ratepayers attend. I must take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Redman for devoting his time to keep ^{us} all in the picture. We much appreciate his and the East Sussex County Council's action in so consulting us about a matter which ^{so greatly} affects the village. ~~From~~ ^{Incidentally Brede Lane is due to be widened first & about has been delayed owing to financial difficulties.} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~briefly~~ the new layout envisages one exit across the Village Green to the main A229 road ~~just~~ ^{just} above the old Pump. ~~There will be a new road~~ ~~One diagonal road~~ One diagonal road and that running beside the Brickwall Hotel will disappear and be re-turfed save for a wide pedestrian footpaths. No trees will be ~~interfered~~ ^{interfered} interfered with, ~~and~~ ^{while} the ~~turfed~~ ^{turfed} area will be appreciably increased. Finally the East Sussex County Council are prepared to complete kerbing of the Village Green at no ~~cost~~ ^{cost} to your Parish Council.

New Sports Field. At the last Assembly Meeting you gave approval to the 10 Year Agreement, now sealed and signed, whereby the Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust agreed to develop 7 acres as a new Sports Field and the Parish Council to pay an annual rent of £ 150 for full use thereof on Saturdays and Sundays etc. Much of the development of the Sports Field has ^{now} been completed and it is hoped that the Sports Field will come into full use from this coming September when a Management Committee will be formed of the two principal parties involved plus representatives of ground users etc.

^{Very recently} New propositions have been put forward by the Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust but until these have been received in detail your Council feels that as yet they cannot reasonably make a pronouncement on them.

Sedlescombe Village Hall Trust. At the last Parish Assembly a resolution was passed approving a donation of £ 300 out of capital to cover cost of redecorating main hall, ceiling, stage, entrance porch, kitchen and old dressing room. The Ministry of Housing & Local Govt., however, refused to sanction such a donation out of capital funds for repair and maintenance work but did approved £ 100 out of capital to meet the cost of re-construction and insulation of the roof. In the circumstance your Parish Council decided to donate ^{an additional} £ 100 out of revenue which the Village Hall Trust could disburse as they thought fit.

Your Parish Council fully appreciates what a great social asset the Village Hall is to the community-- hence their financial help in the past. Request for financial help will always be sympathetically considered but your Council does feel that the Village Hall should be self supporting rather than be subsidised by the rate payer especially as the Village Hall is ^{is} used so much.

Bus Shelters. In 1954 a new bus shelter was erected at a cost of £ 84 on the Hurst Lane junction with the A 227 main road.

There have been requests to erect a bus shelter near the bus stops at the lower end of the Village Green. The Brewers owning the "Coach and Horses" intend to convert their present car park into a safer and more convenient one with one way entry and exit, thus attracting people to park off the main road. Thus there will no space available for the erection of a shelter near the present bus stops. No doubt in due course the Road Authority will see the advisability of a proper bus "pull-off" below the "old Tithe Barn Tea Rooms" together with provision for a shelter and public convenience. Such projects are expensive and need urgent priorities so it is very doubtful if serious consideration would be given by the Road Authority.

Footpaths. Your Parish Council considers it advisable to erect small concrete footpath stones to indicate exit and entry from main roads to Public Footpaths and Rights of Way. Four such concrete signs would be bought ~~and~~ and erected ~~annually~~ annually at a cost of approx. £ 16. In less than ten years all such exits and entries should then be permanently in

existence. Any information on footpaths and their condition will be warmly welcomed by your Parish Council's Footpath Sub-Committee whom can be contact-ed through the Clerk to the Parish.

Village Notice Board. A Village Notice Board has been (will shortly be) erected overlooking the Village Green on the grounds of "The Queen's Head" (near the Post Office) by kind permission of the proprietor, Mr. J.C. White. The Parish Council is most grateful to Mr. White for his help and co-operation in this matter.

Oak Pump Seats The condition of the seats on the south side of the Pump is ~~is~~ considered irreparable. Estimates to replace with seasoned oak vary from £ 62-5-0 to £ 110. Ordinary open slat seats of teak would cost less but they would offer no protection from the wind. On the north side repairs to the present seats are also badly needed but ^{FORTUNATELY} their condition is repairable. Estimates, here, also vary from £ 3-15-0 to £ 24-2-6d.

Your Parish Council would like to have your views on the desirability of replacing these seats with seasoned oak as a facsimile of the old ones. Is the cost justified and would open slat seats of teak be preferable? Your views and comments would greatly help your Parish Council come to a rational decision.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful thanks to the Deputy Chairman, and to all Parish Councillors for their generous support during the past year. I would specially like to mention the hard and devoted work carried out by your Clerk to the Parish, Miss P. Reeves, without whose efforts parish affairs would be extremely hard to conduct.

Thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for coming here this evening and for your attention. I now adjourn and close this Parish Assembly.