

SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORTING TO THE ELECTORATE OF SEDLESCOMBE

MARCH 1976

Finance:

The General Rate (domestic) for 1975-76 was 52.8. For 1976-77 it will be 70.59.

Sedlescombe Parish Council asked for and received a Precept of £1004 in April, £1000 in November and £391.63 in January. The Council's commitments included:- the purchase and installation of swings in the Children's Playing Field - the installation of a telephone and salary for Mrs. Pauline Raymond as the Clerk to succeed Miss P. Reeves - the completion of repairs on the Balcombe Green to Churchland Lane footpath - preparation of plans for the reconstruction of the Village Hall - donations to the Churchyard Fund and the Keep Britain Tidy Group - provision of Litter-baskets - mowing the Village Green, the Playing Field and the Recreation Ground - erection of a fence on the Children's Playground and repair of apparatus - rent of Sports Field - subscriptions to the Sussex Association of Parish Councils, the Sussex Rural Community Council and the National Playing Fields Association - donation to the Village Hall Project Fund.

Sub-Committees:

Village Hall Sub-Committee, Planning Sub-Committee, Footpath Sub-Committee, Finance Sub-Committee. Mrs. Salkeld has continued the weekly walks started in 1974, which have stimulated interest in the district of Sedlescombe and which continue to be well supported.

County Structure Plan:

A Meeting at Langton Hall, Battle held on the 16th April 1975 was attended by members of the Parish Council and members of the public. A questionnaire had been completed and returned as from the Parish Council as a whole. In it the following proposals were made - one being that Sedlescombe should be included in the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty - the other that the Parish Council would like to see a small estate of from 12-20 buildings developed of a type to attract newly-marrieds and first-time buyers. Both proposals were accepted by the East Sussex County Council. A Consultative Draft was issued in January 1976 and this was discussed at Langton Hall on Tuesday, 24th February. Recreation, Tourism and Shopping were on the Agenda.

Closure of the Hawkhurst Road:

As this has meant a loss to traders in Sedlescombe, they were advised to apply to the Valuation Officer in Eastbourne for a temporary reduction in the value of their premises, from which a reduction in rates might follow. The road sign at Blackbrooks was altered and an increase in traffic resulted. The road to Hawkhurst was re-opened in February of this year,

Best Kept Village Competition:

The Village entered again and passed the first round of judging. To stimulate interest and achieve results the Parish Council gave prizes of £2, £1 and 50p. to children attending Sedlescombe Primary School for the three best essays on "A Best Kept Village". Prizes were also given to Sedlescombe boys and girls attending Claverham School. There were a large number of entrants from both schools.

Heavy Commercial Vehicles:

The County Council was asked to consider the introduction of a 3 ton unladen weight limit on certain roads. Those concerning Sedlescombe are the Battle - Whatlington Road - 295-265, and Battle to Sedlescombe via Marley Lane from Marley Rise. A21.

Rother District Council:

In June the Chairman of the above together with the former Chief Executive visited the Village for discussions and were entertained to lunch.

Sedlescombe Playing Fields:

As both banks of the River were in a dangerous condition due to the need to remove trees, the Southern Water Board was approached - but their responsibility ends at the Bridge and the onus lay on Luffs Farm and the Parish Council. It was decided that the work should be contracted out and in consideration of the timber being received by Luffs Farm there would be no expense to the Parish Council. The bridge, which was in a dangerous condition, has been repaired and a new fence has been erected. New swings have been purchased from Wicksteed & Co., and the playground apparatus has been repaired. The grass on the playground will be cut 12 times in the 1976-77 season.

/Cont'd.....

East View Terrace Recreation Ground:

It has been agreed that the grass shall be cut 20 times during the 1976-77 season.

Path from East View Terrace to Barrack Cottages:

A plank bridge consisting of two railway sleepers with a chestnut post and a rail has been constructed on this path. There is also a swing-gate.

Bus Service:

A revised Bus service was started in May 1975 between Sedlescombe and Rye - including Battle, Beckley, Northiam and Udimore. A post-bus service is not now considered essential as the cost would be considerable.

Sedlescombe C.E. Primary School:

At present the Scheme for Sedlescombe School is included in the Education Committee's provisional budget for 1978/79, but the possibility of bringing it forward to 1977/78 will be considered when it is known how much money will be allowed for capital projects in that year.

Concurrent Functions:

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended a meeting of the Association of Parish and Town Councils addressed by Mr. Allen, Treasurer to the Rother District Council. Copies of his report had been distributed to each Councillor. His solution was considered reasonable and well-thought-out. A resolution to that effect was proposed and carried unanimously.

Village Hall Project:

On the 23rd April a proposition for a new Village Hall was put to a meeting of the Parish Council. Mrs. J. Keeling offered to the Council - at a reasonable figure - the land adjacent to the new school. The acreage is 1.47, leaving approximately one acre to sell after the Village Hall had been built. On the 28th April an emergency meeting of the Parish Council was called to discuss the offer in detail and to examine its possibility from the financial and other angles. Eight meetings were held in all. The sum payable to Mrs. Keeling would be £10,000 and completion would have to be by the 1st January. Matters for consideration were the value of the existing Hall, the cost of the new building, interest on a loan, the size of the new Hall etc. Two firms were approached to estimate the cost of the new building if a package deal service were used. There was a possibility that the surplus could be used for a telephone exchange, but that possibility had to be abandoned when cuts were made in Local Government spending. When it was quite clear that this avenue had been explored and that there was not the money to build a new Hall, a Special Parish Assembly was held on the 2nd December. Forty five persons were present. The Chairman spoke for 25 minutes on the future of the Village Hall. Many suggestions were made and arguments on both sides were brought forward. A proposal to investigate further was defeated and a second proposal "that the Parish Council carries on with the recommended alterations to the Village Hall" was carried with 22 votes in favour and 7 against.

In a scheme dated the 5th November, the Charity Commissioners appointed the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall.

Further information will be given by the Chairman at the Parish Assembly.

The Parish Assembly will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 23rd March at 8 p.m.