

	£
1 Subscriptions	100.00
2 Churchward Fund	160.00
3 Recreation grounds, open spaces	2,095.00
4 Sportsfield	1,700.00
5 Village Hall	670.00
6 Bus Shelter	50.00
7 Seats	-
8 Hire of Village Hall for meetings	80.00
9 Footpaths, Parish Council expenditure	15.00
10 Allowances	185.00
11 Clerk's Salary	700.00
12 Clerk's Gratuity Saving	150.00
13 Maintenance of offices	140.00
14 Administration	370.00
15 Contingencies	350.00
16 Repairs and renewals fund	150.00
	<u>£6,915.00</u>
Less expected balances and rent	<u>1,000.00</u>
PRECEPT 1986/7	<u>£5,915.00</u>
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Sedlescombe Parish Rate 2.20p/£

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY

- 1 1985/6 has been a busy year for your Parish Council with items to be discussed which have been of interest to residents and there has been a considerably increased attendance at Open Forums. New seating arrangements for councillors at meetings has been welcomed by members of the public. The newsletter was produced in the Summer, Autumn and Winter to keep residents informed of local authority business. The six footpath leaflets are still available in Sedlescombe Post Office as are copies of "What's What in Sedlescombe?".

The Parish Council continues to have representatives on the following bodies: Board of Governors of Sedlescombe C.E. School; Rother District Association of Town and Parish Councils; the Village Hall Management Committee; the Sports Association and the Tennis Club.
- 2 CAR PARK, PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, HOUSING, BREDE LANE. Although the District Council's proposed development of car park/public conveniences/housing had been planned for many years - the Parish Council first requested that consideration be given to a site for conveniences and a car park in 1966 - representations were made in the autumn that the conveniences were not necessary. The Parish Council arranged a referendum of all residents asking whether public conveniences should be included in the Breda Lane development site. 52.5% of the population voted and of these 58% voted Yes and 42% No.

Earlier, the District Council had produced a plan to sell the site to a developer who would be expected to provide the car park and public conveniences as well as the housing. The site's layout has not yet been approved but the Parish Council has made it known that it would like the District Council to consider siting the conveniences behind the Doctors' Surgery (a separate private development) so that they will be less obtrusive. The positioning of a future Village Hall must also be considered.
- 3 SPORTSFIELD. During the year, a small car park was constructed for use by spectators and players at the field at a cost of more than a thousand pounds. The Council put up "No Parking" boards along the Pestalozzi road. The

Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust repaired and resurfaced the road in the autumn and the Council plans to make a contribution of £513 towards this cost. The Council arranged for the trees behind the pavilion to be tidied and removed as necessary. The Bexhill Community Programme Team has agreed to carry out work to the ditch at the field and it is thought that the work will be completed in six weeks. Snow in February unfortunately hindered the start of the project. Loan repayments of £1,600 have been made during the year. Two other subjects have been under discussion - a seat for the field in memory of Mr Bill Hock and a new name for the field. It has been decided that the name should be SEDLESCOMBE SPORTSFIELD - OAKLANDS PARK.

- 4 TENNIS COURTS. The Parish Council/Tennis Club agreement for the use of the tennis courts was finalised this year. This licence which will expire in 1990 requires the Club to maintain the courts and fences in good condition and the Parish Council to resurface the courts in 1990 or earlier if necessary. A resurfacing fund has been set up to which the Club contributes £150 p.a. and the Council £250 p.a. In addition, the Club made an initial payment of £500 as did the Sports Association.

The courts can be hired by the public when not required by the Club. The Club will put details of their use on or near the courts but the courts will normally be available for public use Monday to Friday until 5pm. Availability during evenings and weekends will vary during the season.

- 5 STREET LIGHTING. A resident very kindly offered to donate four street lights to the Village, to pay for their installation and contribute towards their maintenance. The Council distributed a questionnaire seeking residents' views which resulted in an equality of votes. The Council decided not to accept the offer.

- 6 TRANSPORT. The Council was asked to provide details of residents' public transport requirements. 600 copies of a questionnaire were distributed and 114 replies received. The information which was provided was passed onto the County Council's transport consultants who have been working on arrangements for public transport due to come into effect in the autumn of this year. So far, one County Rider bus (Service 809) has been introduced into this area. In May, a new County Rider service is to be introduced. Craft timetables can be seen at Sedlescombe Library on Tuesday afternoons until the end of March.

- 7 LIFT SCHEME. This scheme has been ended because of lack of use. It was first introduced in Sedlescombe in 1980 and has proved useful in encouraging car drivers to give lifts to other residents.

- 8 AIRSTRIP AT SPILSTED FARM. A planning application to use an agricultural building for the storage of light aircraft and to use a field for a landing strip has been of concern to residents of Sedlescombe and surrounding areas. The original application stated that not more than seven aircraft would be stored in the barn and flying of single engined private planes would not take place on more than 75 days in a year. The Parish Council supported the application which was to be limited to 2 years. In January, Rother District Council approved on the following basis: that not more than two light aircraft which are the private property of the applicant are stored or flown to or from the site; the approval will be restricted to the applicant and will expire on 31 January 1987; aircrafts and gliders may only take off and land at Spilsted Farm on 28 days in any calendar year and the District Council must approve the site of the landing strip before it is used.

- 9 NEW TV RELAY STATION. The Council was involved in discussions with the BBC before the Relay Station was brought into use in the Summer.

- 10 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME. The meeting held in the Village Hall in January was attended by the Police and 142 residents. Many people have readily volunteered to act as co-ordinators and the scheme should be in operation at the end of March.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION. Sedlescombe was successful in winning the East Sussex Small Village Section of the Competition in 1985 and an award presentation ceremony was held on the Village Green in October. An aluminium plaque was presented by Sussex Rural Community Council, £45 by National Airbank and £30 by Sussex Men of the Trees. The plaque has been placed on the Pumphouse with those won in previous years. A Canadian Maple tree has been planted at the sportsfield to commemorate the field's purchase by the Village.

In May 1986, judging will commence to find the Champion of Champions. Sedlescombe won this title in 1980 and was Runner-up in 1981 and 1982. A Village Spring Clean Day has been arranged for Saturday 26 April in the morning. Please bring own rubber or gardening gloves.

12 "SEDLESCOMBE WELCOMES CAREFUL DRIVERS". The Council considered erecting a sign on Church Hill which might have helped in slowing traffic approaching the Village. However, as this would have to be provided by the County Council, the cost to the Parish Council would have been £125 which was considered too expensive. The idea was therefore abandoned.

13 THE CHEVENING-HASTINGS TRUNK ROAD (A 21), BLACKBROOKS, SEDLESCOMBE. The Department of Transport published proposals for alterations at the junctions of the A21/Crazy Lane and A21/A229. The Parish Council did not support these proposals as it considered that any improvements that would occur would not justify the cost. If money is available, other parts of the A21, particularly Kent Street, merit attention.

14 SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

14.1 PLANNING. The Parish Council's Planning Committee has met regularly to consider each planning application in the parish.

14.2 FINANCE. The Finance Committee has met quarterly and made recommendations to the Council on expenditure. During the year, parts of the playground equipment have been repaired and repainted and further work is planned for the coming financial year. Fences around both playgrounds are in need of attention and the work is due to be carried out soon. Several trees at the riverside playground and sportsfield have been removed or treated as necessary. As reported under "Sportsfield", repayment of the sportsfield loan and construction of a car park have been major items of expenditure. Mowing the recreation grounds and the Village Green remains a considerable expense for a small parish. Although the Parish Council has increased its Precept for 1986/7, an alteration in the District Council's method of calculating the parish councils' concurrent functions grants has resulted in a reduction in the Sedlescombe parish rate.

14.3 FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE. The Footpaths Committee has met three times during the year and members have led six walks between October and March. These were well attended and should help residents who would like to use the paths in the parish. Various problems have been reported to the County Council who, as highway authority, has responsibility for maintenance of paths. Obstructions to the paths at Spilsted Farm have mainly been resolved but the Committee has expressed its concern at the County Council suggestion that the bridleway which is affected by the existing airstrip at Spilsted Farm should be diverted. The erection of notices to warn walkers and riders of the possible danger of aircraft would be supported by the Parish Council. An application to divert part of Footpath 20 which had been obstructed by the planting of a vineyard was supported by the Parish Council.