



## Churt Parish Council Newsletter March 2021

### Grants news

The Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on our Parish finances and we are very grateful, therefore, to have received government grants from WBC. The first, received early in the pandemic amounted to £10,000 and the second, recently received, amounted to some £8,500. I thought you would like to know how it has been and is being used.

The initial **Business Support Grant** of £10,000.00 has enabled us to financially support the following.

- Our revenue was down by some £4000.00 as little cricket was played and we expect a loss of revenue from the football club who have been unable to play for the past three months.
- We have had substantial running costs for the pavilion, recreation ground and Redhearn Green.
- We have had substantial costs for the running of the Churt Community Support Group in providing Covid support.
- We have had greatly increased web mastering costs to keep everyone updated with timely Covid and other reports during the various lockdowns.
- We have provided flowers and hampers to residents who suffered particular hardship due to isolation or particular illness or trauma during the pandemic.
- We have had to pay Zoom fees to allow us all to continue holding Council meetings and conducting business - I could go on.

I must pay tribute to our Councillors who have performed magnificently and done all this for free with no expenses claimed or paid.

The second tranche of **Community Support Grants** of some £8,500.00 were received after we had agreed the Parish precept element of Council Tax for the coming financial year 2021-22. This grant has enabled us to bring forward several plans we were hoping to achieve.

- The Pavilion is currently being decorated. It has not been done since it was built in 2003 and was in desperate need.
- The mechanisms of some of the playground equipment required major maintenance in accordance with RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) recommendations. This work has recently been carried out.
- The area of the recreation ground adjacent to the tennis courts has been cleared and re-turfed with a view to creating a community orchard later in the year.

All that said, we do need to be somewhat prudent in the coming year. We have no way of telling whether we shall have further losses of income or increased expense due to Covid. The signs are currently promising but we do need to be cautious and ready with funds available should there be a further serious outbreak of Covid or other currently dormant respiratory diseases in the autumn and winter.

What I can say, is that Churt Parish Council is managing its funds and resources diligently and in a way that Councillors believe to be best value whilst providing the best possible resources and amenities for the village and its residents.

David Crossley. Chairman

10 March 2021