



Edenbridge Town Council

Town Clerk: Christine Lane CertHE Local Policy



To: Cllrs R Bell, T Bryant, Mrs J Davison, A Layland, M McArthur, S McGregor (Chairman), B Orridge, Z Roberts Smith, J Scholey (Vice Chairman) and B Todd.

A meeting of the FINANCE COMMITTEE will be held in Rickards Hall at 7.45pm (or shortly after) on 21 May 2018.

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR PREDETERMINATION**, including any interests not already registered
3. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
4. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
5. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 APRIL 2018**
6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR REPORT AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**
7. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**
To approve the month's Financial Statement as at 30 April 2018.
To approve the analysis of receipts and payments, and the details of invoices for payment.
To approve and accept the transfers into, out of and between accounts of the Capital Fund.
To approve the Financial Comparisons to 30 April 2018.
8. **FINANCE BUSINESS**
 - 8.1 **Ground staff mobile phone**
 - 8.2 **Street Lighting maintenance contract**
 - 8.3 **CIL Payment**
 - 8.4 **Open Spaces Society**
9. **FINANCE CORRESPONDENCE**
10. **PRESS RELEASE**

Members of the public are invited to attend and there is an opportunity for public questions or statements at full Council, Planning and Transportation and Open Spaces Meetings. There is no such facility at other committee meetings. Copies of the agenda and background papers, except any exempt items, are available from Doggetts Barn before the meeting and plans can be examined there (Monday – Fridays 9am – 5pm).

Council offices: Doggetts Barn, 72A High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AR

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm **Tel:** (01732) 865368 **Fax:** (01732) 866749

Email: townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk **Web:** www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Finance Report May 2018

8. FINANCE BUSINESS

8.1 Ground staff mobile phone

The ground staff mobile phone has been troublesome of late and the contract is due for renewal in July this year. The RFO has contacted Focus Group, who provide the o2 mobile contract, and they have agreed to renew early. They have provided 2 tariff options, both offering unlimited texts and calls to UK mobiles and 01, 02 and 03 landlines. The contract including 2gb of data usage would cost £15.50 per month, and 4gb of data usage would be £19.50 per month. It would be sensible to opt for more data usage, as the contract is for 24 months, and there is £350 allocated in this year's budget which will more than cover this. This extra data usage could be useful over a period of time, with regular updates using more of the data. The contract also includes a new Samsung Galaxy J3 free of charge.

Do members agree the RFO should accept this new contract to include 4gb of data usage for the next 24 months?

8.2 Street lighting maintenance contract

Notification of a price increase to the street lighting contract has been received. The contract began in July 2013 and initially ran for nine months. In April 2014, the first full three year contract started at the same price and there was no increase for three years, until last April when there was one of 4%. This year the increase is 3%.

The Admin Officer contacted the company and they explained the contracts run for 3 years, and the present one began in April 2017, but with a 4% increase as previous increases had been missed. Normally, the first year of the next three year contract remains the same figure as the last year of the previous contract, whilst years two and three have increases based on inflation. However, the Council has a 3% increase this year, will have a further increase in 2019/20, and then in 2020/21 the figure will remain the same as it was in 2019/20. This year's budgeted figure is £177 short, as another large increase was not expected.

Do members wish to make any comments, and what budget heading do they wish the £177 shortfall to be taken from this year?

8.3 CIL Payment

Members will be pleased to note that a further CIL payment was received at the end of April. The amount was £6,753.13, covering the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018. The total amount received to date is £59,891.89.

8.4 Open Spaces Society

Open Spaces Society have written to the Council appealing for a further donation, as it is fifty years since the Countryside Act became law in 1968. A copy of their letter is attached for information. The Council has Open Spaces Society membership at a cost of £45 per annum.

Do members wish to make a further donation at this time?

9. FINANCE CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. PRESS RELEASE

Are there any items on the Agenda for which members would like to issue a press release?

RFO

16 May 2018

7.1 Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary between 01/04/18 and 30/04/18 inclusive.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Barclays General Account	£29,632.35
Lloyds General Account	£45,891.30
Petty Cash	£200.00

Short Term Investment Accounts

Barclays Capital Reserves	£248,058.95
Barclays General Reserves	-£18,703.40
Lloyds TSB - Deposit Acc	£300,000.00
Total	£605,079.20

RECEIPTS

	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£16,134.13	£0.00	£16,134.13
Open Spaces	£133,720.57	£516.84	£134,237.41
Central Services	£123,494.81	£0.00	£123,494.81
Emergency Planning Committee	£137.50	£0.00	£137.50
Community Warden	£3,500.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
Total Receipts	£276,987.01	£516.84	£277,503.85

PAYMENTS

	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£14,000.00	£0.00	£14,000.00
Open Spaces	£13,867.19	£818.29	£14,685.48
Central Services	£57,754.33	£8,395.22	£66,149.55
Emergency Planning Committee	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00
Community Warden	£1,765.27	£106.54	£1,871.81
Total Payments	£87,412.79	£9,320.05	£96,732.84

Closing

Ordinary Accounts

Barclays General Account	£275,403.36
Lloyds General Account	£45,891.30
Petty Cash	£200.00

Short Term Investment Accounts

Barclays Capital Reserves	£248,058.95
Barclays General Reserves	-£83,703.40
Lloyds TSB - Deposit Acc	£300,000.00

Total

£785,850.21

7.2 Received Income Transactions

between 01/04/18 and 15/05/18

Start of year 01/04/18

Paying ref.	Received date	Invoice	Gross	Vat	Net Cttee	Details
DC:180403	03/04/18		£165.25	£0.00	£165.25	Rent of Mowshurst Garage
DC:180405	05/04/18		£14,034.66	£1.50	£14,033.16	Allotment Holders
10200	05/04/18	Mis598	£1,282.71	£0.00	£1,282.71	Ritagate Ltd T/A Bray Associates
10200	05/04/18	Mis606	£153.70	£0.00	£153.70	W I Hall Management
DC:180405	05/04/18	Mis610	£2,166.60	£361.10	£1,805.50	Committee Edenbridge Rugby Football Club
10200	05/04/18	RH1170	£264.75	£0.00	£264.75	New Life Church Biggin Hill
10200	05/04/18	RH1172	£88.25	£0.00	£88.25	Hire of Rickards Hall
DC:180410	10/04/18		£34.40	£0.00	£34.40	Hire of Rickards Hall
10202	24/04/18		£144.72	£5.00	£139.72	Allotment Holders
10202	24/04/18	3839	£79.15	£0.00	£79.15	UK Power Networks (wayleaves)
10202	24/04/18	3840	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	Cemetery fees
10202	24/04/18	3841	£56.60	£0.00	£56.60	Cemetery fees
10202	24/04/18	3842	£169.80	£0.00	£169.80	Alex Jones Funeral Directors
10202	24/04/18	3843	£79.15	£0.00	£79.15	S Smith & Son
10202	24/04/18	3844	£79.15	£0.00	£79.15	Alex Jones Funeral Directors
10202	24/04/18	Mis614	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	S Smith & Son
10202	24/04/18	Mis616	£1,345.05	£0.00	£1,345.05	Quarterly Rent Market Rent
10202	24/04/18	RH1171	£36.90	£0.00	£36.90	Nomads Football Club
10203	24/04/18	RH1179	£65.60	£0.00	£65.60	Ritagate Ltd T/A Bray Associates
DC:180424	24/04/18	RH1180	£295.20	£0.00	£295.20	Hire of Rickards Hall
DC:180425	25/04/18	Mis616	£800.15	£133.36	£666.79	Hire of Rickards Hall
10204	26/04/18		£601.53	£15.88	£585.65	Freshwater Group of Companies Market Rent
10204	26/04/18	RH1185	£33.40	£0.00	£33.40	Sale of Brown Sacks / Other Goods
DC:180427	27/04/18		£6,753.13	£0.00	£6,753.13	Sale of Garden sacks
DC:180430	30/04/18		£248,649.00	£0.00	£248,649.00	Hire of Rickards Hall CIL Payment
10206	03/05/18		£124.34	£2.75	£121.59	Open Spaces Precept
10205	03/05/18	3845	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	Sale of Garden sacks Goods Cemetery Fees

7.2 Received Income Transactions

between 01/04/18 and 15/05/18

Start of year 01/04/18

Paying ref.	Received date	Invoice	Gross	Vat	Net Cttee	Details
10205	03/05/18	3846	£79.15	£0.00	£79.15	Cemetery Fees
10205	03/05/18	Mis608	£912.38	£0.00	£912.38	Eden Valley Museum Trust Gas bill 17/18
10206	03/05/18	RH1181	£86.10	£0.00	£86.10	Hire of Rickards Hall
10205	03/05/18	RH1183	£59.75	£0.00	£59.75	Robyn's Way Management Co Hire of Rickards Hall Ltd
10205	03/05/18	RH1184	£203.41	£0.00	£203.41	New Life Church Biggin Hill Hire of Rickards Hall
10205	03/05/18	RH1186	£70.60	£0.00	£70.60	E/B Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society Hire of Rickards Hall
Total			£279,064.58	£519.59	£278,544.99	

7.3 Paid Expenditure Transactions

between 01/04/18 and 15/05/18 Start of year 01/04/18

Cheque	Paid date	Tn no Order	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
100105	03/05/18	38731	£260.00	£0.00	£260.00	Repairs to noticeboard
DD180403	03/04/18	38696	£180.79	£30.13	£150.66	Petrocell Holdings Ltd
DD180403	03/04/18	38734	£258.00	£0.00	£258.00	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180403	03/04/18	38737	£405.00	£0.00	£405.00	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180403	03/04/18	38738	£183.00	£0.00	£183.00	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180403	03/04/18	38741	£315.00	£0.00	£315.00	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180403	03/04/18	38742	£258.00	£0.00	£258.00	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180403	03/04/18	38744	£65.00	£0.00	£65.00	Action with Communities in Rural Kent
DD180403	03/04/18	38745	£904.13	£0.00	£904.13	Buildings Insurance
DD180416	16/04/18	38698	£963.67	£160.61	£803.06	Aviva
DD180416	16/04/18	38743	£42.60	£7.10	£35.50	E-On UK Plc
DD180418	18/04/18	38733	£9.71	£1.62	£8.09	Sage Software Limited
DD180423	23/04/18	38739	£147.90	£0.00	£147.90	O2
DD180423	23/04/18	38740	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180424	24/04/18	38697	£140.03	£23.34	£116.69	Sevenoaks District Council
DD180426	26/04/18	38736	£17.92	£2.99	£14.93	Focus 4 U
IB180420	20/04/18	38699	£4,411.68	£0.00	£4,411.68	O2
IB180420	20/04/18	38700	£3,250.82	£0.00	£3,250.82	KCC Pension Fund
IB180425	25/04/18	38721	£61.43	£0.00	£61.43	Inland Revenue
IB180425	25/04/18	38722	£31.71	£0.00	£31.71	SES Business Water
IB180425	25/04/18	38723	£65.45	£0.00	£65.45	SES Business Water
IB180425	25/04/18	38724	£75.12	£0.00	£75.12	SES Business Water
IB180425sal	25/04/18	38746	£14,725.40	£0.00	£14,725.40	S&N Machinery
IB180503	04/05/18	38725	£15.66	£0.00	£15.66	Salaries
IB180503	04/05/18	38726	£2,894.05	£0.00	£2,894.05	NFU Mutual Insurance
IB180503	04/05/18	38727	£538.80	£89.80	£449.00	NFU Mutual Insurance
IB180503	04/05/18	38728	£679.00	£113.17	£565.83	Project Skills Solutions Ltd
IB180503	04/05/18	38729	£270.00	£45.00	£225.00	Kent Trailer Training Ltd
IB180503	04/05/18	38730	£294.81	£49.13	£245.68	First Aid Team
Total			£31,644.68	£522.89	£31,121.79	City Servicing London Ltd Building repairs

7.4 Edenbridge Town Council

Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year

01/04/18

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Cheque Total
38701	IB180522	£1,010.75	2000/6	31/03/18	HM Revenue & Customs - Class 1A NIC's	£1,010.75
38747	IB180522	£252.00	3030/4	09/05/18	BSP (Knockholt) Ltd - Skip hire	£252.00
38748	IB180522	£283.76	2030/3	09/05/18	Canon (uk) Ltd - Photocopier hire	£686.83
38749	IB180522	£403.07	2030/3	26/04/18	Canon (uk) Ltd - Photocopier Printing costs	£686.83
38750	IB180522	£23.72	3050/4	30/04/18	A W Champion Ltd - Plywood	£69.49
38751	IB180522	£45.77	3050/4	08/05/18	A W Champion Ltd - Redwood & postcrete	£69.49
38752	IB180522	£784.20	2220/2/3	28/04/18	The Colvin Cleaning Group - Rickards Hall cleaning	£784.20
38753	IB180522	£30.00	2020/1	03/05/18	- Window cleaning Doggett's Barn	£30.00
38754	IB180522	£4,678.00	1100	27/04/18	Hever Countryside Services - Bollards Marsh Green	£4,678.00
38755	IB180522	£43.74	3050/4	04/05/18	Jewson - Postcrete	£111.63
38756	IB180522	£8.47	3050/4	30/04/18	Jewson - Evostick	£111.63
38757	IB180522	£6.78	3050/4	20/04/18	Jewson - Paintbrush	£111.63
38758	IB180522	£12.87	3040/1	20/04/18	Jewson - Percussion drill bit & handsaw	£111.63
38759	IB180522	£34.99	3050/4	27/04/18	Jewson - Postcrete	£111.63
38760	IB180522	£1.08	3050/4	19/04/18	Jewson - Cup square carriage bolt	£111.63
38761	IB180522	£3.70	3050/4	19/04/18	Jewson - Masonry drill bit	£111.63
38762	IB180522	£103.02		01/05/18	Kent County Council Commercial Services -	£162.54
1		£76.14	2220/4		Hand towels & toilet tissue Rickards Hall	
38763	IB180522	£59.52	3090/2	26/04/18	Kent County Council Commercial Services - Refuse sacks & hand wash	£162.54
38764	IB180522	£960.00	3100/1	30/04/18	Dave Ogilvie Engineering Ltd - World war one seat	£960.00
38765	IB180522	£79.00	1040	07/05/18	S&N Machinery - 2 autocut Stihl bump feeds units	£264.82
38766	IB180522	£185.82		07/05/18	S&N Machinery -	£264.82
1		£92.80	3050/4		Nylium strimmer line	
2		£93.02	1040		Stihl Advance universal harnesses	
38767	IB180522	£780.00	3050/11/8	27/04/18	Sevenoaks Direct Services - Garden waste sacks	£780.00
38768	IB180522	£24.61	4050/1	30/04/18	Solo Protect - Lone working system	£24.61
38769	IB180522	£3,856.32	3135	01/05/18	Streetlights - Payment 1 of annual contract	£4,154.22

7.4 Edenbridge Town Council

Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year

01/04/18

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Cheque Total
38770	IB180522	£297.90	1040	09/04/18	Streetlights - Lighting repairs	£4,154.22
38771	IB180522	£45.00		25/04/18	Surekill Pest Control Services -	£45.00
	1	£22.50	2220/2/1		Pest Control Rickards Hall	
	2	£22.50	2200/2		Pest Control Church House	
38772	IB180522	£133.33	2040/2	30/04/18	Viking Direct Ltd - various stationery items	£172.76
38773	IB180522	£39.43	2040/2	09/05/18	Viking Direct Ltd - Paper & stationery	£172.76
38774	IB180522	£44.23		24/04/18	Vodafone -	£44.23
	1	£24.72	4020		Community Warden phone	
	2	£19.51	2010/9		Property Manager phone	
		£26.88			Salaries & Wages	
Total		£14,231.08				

7.5 Direct Debits April 2018

Date	Supplier	Amount
3	Petrocell	180.79
	Aviva	904.13
	SDC - Non Domestic Rates Mowshurst Barn	183.00
	SDC - Non Domestic Rates Car park & Public Toilets	516.00
	SDC - Non Domestic Rates Doggett's Barn	405.00
	SDC - Non Domestic Rates Depot	315.00
16	E ON Street Lights	963.67
	o2 Broadband iPad	9.71
4	Sage Software	42.60
20	Water Wellbeing	38.24
23	SDC - Non Domestic Rates Rickards Hall	180.00
	SDC - Non Domestic Rates Market Yard	147.90
24	Focus 4 U	140.03
29	o2 ground staff mobile	17.92
15	Inland Revenue	3250.82
15	KCC Pension	4411.68
27	Salaries	14725.40
1	Action with Communities in Rural Kent	65.00

7.6 Fund Transfer

Capital Reserves

Transfer In: Nil

Transfer Out: £3,500 Community Warden

Revenue reserves

Transfer In: Nil

Transfer Out: £65,000.00

7.7 Paragraphs 5.1 to 5.5 approved by resolution of the Council:

7.8 Invoices outstanding for more than 3months

Nil

5.9 Financial Comparisons

Comparisons between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 Transactions with a ledger date prior to 1 April are excluded (actual amounts shown are net amounts) The balance is based on the 2018/19 Budget (Items in blue have been actioned on the Capital Reserves Account)

Income for the Council	Budget	Actual	Balance	Expenditure for the Council	Budget	Actual	Balance
Precept	18,762.00	9,381.00	9,381.00	Working Balance	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
Working Balance	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	Contingencies	7,725.00	0.00	7,725.00
Contingencies	0.00	0.00	0.00	Grants	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	Depreciation - Equipment/tools	13,260.00	0.00	13,260.00
C Depreciation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	Edenbridge Twinning Association	500.00	500.00	0.00
Capital Fund	30,033.00	0.00	30,033.00	Eden Valley Museum	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
C Election Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	House Project	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
Neighbourhood planning	0.00	0.00	0.00	Earmarked Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
CIL	53,174.75	6,753.13	46,421.62	Capital Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital TR Inc Precept	0.00	0.00	0.00	Summer Playscheme	1,850.00	0.00	1,850.00
				Bonfire Clean Up	960.00	0.00	960.00
				Legal & Professional fees	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
				CIL	53,174.75	0.00	53,174.75
	131,969.75	16,134.13	115,835.62		131,969.75	14,000.00	117,969.75
Income for Central Services	Budget	Actual	Balance	Expenditure for Central Services	Budget	Actual	Balance
Allocation from Precept	181,320.00	90,660.00	90,660.00	Staff Costs	166,350.00	8,254.29	158,095.71
Precept 10 Year Building Plan	12,852.00	6,426.00	6,426.00	Utilities	9,070.00	413.09	8,656.91
precept 30 Year Building Plan	23,027.00	11,513.50	11,513.50	Services	9,615.00	2,778.10	6,836.90
Interest (Barclays Base Rate Reward)	200.00	0.00	200.00	Equipment /Tools	3,800.00	0.00	3,800.00
Interest precept	50.00	0.00	50.00	Materials	1,000.00	32.43	967.57
VAT Reclaimed	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	Buildings	7,500.00	570.07	6,929.93
Sundry Receipts	2,925.00	156.55	2,768.45	10 Year Buildings Maintenance Plan	12,285.00	0.00	12,285.00
Interest Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Reserves TR 10 Year Buildings Maintenance P	567.00	0.00	567.00
Charity Account Transfers	19,000.00	13,954.66	5,045.34	30 Year Buildings Maintenance Plan	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church House	6,190.00	0.00	6,190.00	Reserves TR 30 Year Buildings Maintenance P	23,027.00	0.00	23,027.00
Rickards Hall Lettings	13,000.00	784.10	12,215.90	Buildings Materials	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
WI Hall Admin	1,970.00	0.00	1,970.00	Other	6,850.00	83.00	6,767.00
Reserves 10 Year Maintenance Plan TF	0.00	0.00	0.00	Charity Account Transfers	19,000.00	0.00	19,000.00
Reserves 30 Year Maintenance Plan TF	0.00	0.00	0.00	Church House	3,250.00	76.82	3,173.18
				Public Toilets	9,000.00	332.14	8,667.86
				Rickards Hall	13,220.00	238.71	12,981.29
	286,534.00	123,494.81	163,039.19		286,534.00	12,778.65	273,755.35

Income for Open Spaces		Budget	Actual	Balance	Expenditure for Open Spaces		Budget	Actual	Balance
Allocation from Precept	152,092.00	76,046.00	76,046.00	76,046.00	Staff Costs	106,625.00	5,852.14	100,772.86	
Precept 10 yr Maintenance	42,230.00	21,115.00	21,115.00	21,115.00	Utilities	12,315.00	1,015.99	11,299.01	
Precept 30 yr Maintenance	59,740.00	29,870.00	29,870.00	29,870.00	Services	14,880.00	0.00	14,880.00	
10 yr Sundry receipt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Equipment/Tools	4,250.00	197.95	4,052.05	
Cemetery Fees	11,000.00	488.85	488.85	10,511.15	Materials	17,230.00	0.00	17,230.00	
Rents	14,993.00	4,770.31	4,770.31	10,222.69	Buildings	2,100.00	230.82	1,869.18	
Maintenance Services	5,465.00	666.79	4,798.21	4,798.21	Vehicles	9,550.00	75.12	9,474.88	
Solar Panels	850.00	0.00	850.00	850.00	Contingencies	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	
Sundry Receipts	9,500.00	763.62	8,736.38	8,736.38	Others	1,000.00	90.00	910.00	
Reserves 10 Year Maintenance Plan TF	2,373.00	0.00	2,373.00	2,373.00	Small Projects	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	
30 Year Maintenance Plan TF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Vandalism	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	
					Footpaths Equipment	200.00	0.00	200.00	
					Public Street Lighting	9,500.00	0.00	9,500.00	
					Public Street Lighting Contract	6,250.00	0.00	6,250.00	
					10 Year Maintenance Plan	44,603.00	0.00	44,603.00	
					Reserves TR Balancing 10 Yr Plan	0.00	0.00	0.00	
					30 Yr Maintenance Plan	23,175.00	0.00	23,175.00	
					Reserves TR Balancing 30 Yr Plan	36,565.00	0.00	36,565.00	
	298,243.00	133,720.57	164,522.43	164,522.43		298,243.00	7,462.02	290,780.98	
Income for Emergency Planning		Budget	Actual	Balance	Expenditure for Emergency Planning		Budget	Actual	Balance
Allocation from Precept	275.00	137.50	137.50	137.50	Equipment/Tools	100.00	26.00	74.00	
Sundry Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Others	175.00	0.00	175.00	
	275.00	137.50	137.50	137.50	Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	
						275.00	26.00	249.00	

Councillors are reminded that although the Community Warden is employed by the Council on behalf of the Community Warden Steering Group. Any issues or concerns should be raised with them.

Income for Community Warden	Budget	Actual	Balance	Expenditure for Community Warden	Budget	Actual	Balance
Precept (ETC Cont)				Staff Costs	14,500.00	903.72	13,596.28
Moad Housing	7,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	Management Costs	2,625.00	0.00	2,625.00
West Kent Housing	0.00	0.00	0.00	Phone	280.00	0.00	280.00
Westerham	0.00	0.00	0.00	CRB Check	0.00	0.00	0.00
John Coldman trust	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	Sundries	240.00	0.00	240.00
Police	0.00	0.00	0.00	Clothing & Supplies	310.00	0.00	310.00
Great Stone Bridge Trust	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	Vehicle Running Costs	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
KCC	0.00	0.00	0.00	Vehicle Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Reserves	7,575.00	0.00	7,575.00	Training	120.00	0.00	120.00
Sundry Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	CW Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
	19,575.00	3,500.00	16,075.00		19,575.00	903.72	18,671.28
Nett Balance	736,596.75	276,987.01	459,609.74	Nett Expenditure	736,596.75	35,170.39	701,426.36

-6,680.98

14 MAY 2018



Ms Christine Lane
Edenbridge Town Council
Doggetts Barn
High Street
EDENBRIDGE
TN8 5AR

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EMAIL hq@oss.org.uk
WEB www.oss.org.uk

8 May 2018

Dear Ms Lane

Please help us to realise a 50-year-old vision

Fifty years ago the Countryside Act 1968 became law. It was definitely good news, and we played a major role in its genesis.

The Countryside Act was about the countryside close to where people lived and it also improved the law on public paths. Thanks to lobbying from the society and other user groups before and during its passage through parliament it ended up being a useful measure. For instance:

- it empowered local authorities to create country parks, securing accessible countryside close to people's homes;
- it gave highway authorities a legal duty to put up signposts where public paths leave a metalled road and to waymark a path if needed to help people find their way;
- it required landowners to:
 - maintain stiles, gates and other structures in a safe condition;
 - make good the surface of a path within three weeks of ploughing (later amended to 14 days).

Yet 50 years on, many highway authorities and landowners are failing in their responsibilities. Hundreds of paths still lack signposts and waymarks, dodgy stiles and gates are common, and many paths are ploughed and not reinstated, as any walker or rider can testify.

Continued/2



The Open Spaces Society 25a Bell Street Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA

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These continuing problems are our bread and butter. I know that our indefatigable local correspondents from all over the country have to deal with the broken or awkward stilts and gates, the missing or never-existent signposts and waymarks, and the cropped-over paths that come up time and again.

The local correspondents report these things to the councils responsible for resolving such matters, and press for action. But in these times of austerity it is harder than ever to get the authorities to respond. Sometimes our correspondents run into a problem which is not straightforward, or is outside their knowledge, and therefore they need technical advice from our staff—or even legal action. And, of course, such tricky problems are even more likely to be raised with us by less experienced members of the society including local groups. We give them help too.

Please will you help our campaign to deliver the aspirations of the Countryside Act, by enhancing local expertise, and encouraging authorities to fulfill their obligations? Training our local correspondents, helping a novice path-worker through the thickets of and accurate technical advice, helping a novice path-worker through the thickets of highway law—all these things must be paid for. But in the end these activities add up to a realisation of the vision which lay behind the 1968 act.

Anything you can give to this appeal will bring us nearer the ideal of clear paths and the joy of walking and riding them.

Many thanks,



Graham Bathe
Chairman

**PS Please send your cheque in the envelope provided to:
Open Spaces Society, FREEPOST (RG1344), Henley-on-Thames RG9 1BR
or visit our website <http://www.oss.org.uk/how-you-can-help/appeals/>.**

Thank you.



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