

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Beckley Parish Council on Wednesday 13th September 2017

Development of New and Much Improved Play Area at Jubilee Field, Beckley

The Cabinet recommended up to a maximum of £30,000 subject to confirmation being given that the conditions around provision of play equipment suitable for the disabled is agreed prior to the commencement of the project and that clarification be given as to the final costings of the project.

Provisional Revenue Budget & Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 1, 2017/18

The Report showed a net variance of £396,000 compared with the budget. The main features of which are as follows:

<u>Details</u>	£000s (+)/-
Private sector housing (under spent)	(385) c/f.
Car Parking (surplus)	(200)
Camber Beach Foreshore (new spend)	18
Rural Open Spaces (Playground Coronation Gdns)	58
Cemeteries - Bexhill	10
Environmental Services(P'ship w. Wealden saving)	(40)
Finance & Welfare (Postage, Audit Fees & Housing Needs, Benefit Admin)	220
ICT & Customer – communications/ phones (savings)	(40)
Planning (vacancies – savings)	(12)
Interest	(65)
Other Expenditure	40
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	(396)
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Interest earned of £65,000 for the quarter is mainly from a comparatively new investment of up to £4m in the Local Authority Church Investment Fund which shows a return of 4.5% per annum.

Council is being asked to agree further capital spending of up to £7m on commercial property for letting. This as with the investment above and in common with other local authorities will help to generate income to fill the gap being created by the disappearance of the Government Grant by 2020.

Collection of Council Tax and Business Rates yields compare well with the same quarter last year. The budget yield is expected to be 98.5%, however over £10,000 worth of debt had to be written out of the Accounts because of business failures and bankruptcies.

Because of the incidence of Uniform Credit and Business Rates increase, provision is having to be made to meet hardship claims from residents and possible appeals from businesses, Applicants can no longer claim Council Tax credits. This affects approximately 10% of residents in the District.

Councillor Martin Mooney.
Rother District Council
Rother Levels Ward