



Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Hadlow Down Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00pm on Tuesday April 18th 2017
*Note – this is a draft copy to be agreed and amended
at the next Annual Assembly*

Present: Cllrs Sandra Richards (Chair), Damon Wellman, Helen Bonnick, Julian Michaelson-Yeates and Michael Lunn.
In attendance: Cllrs Roy Galley (ESCC), Bob Standley (ESCC) Helen Johnson (Clerk) and members of the public.

The meeting started at 7:10pm

Sandra Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Presentation:** A presentation was given by Dave Winsor from Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. This was followed by a Questions and Answers session.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Iain Turner and Cllr Toby Illingworth (TI).
- 3. The minutes of the 2016 Annual Assembly:** the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4. WDC Report:** Cllr. Michael Lunn (WDC) - As many Parishioners will know I also act as your District Councillor. That role does not just cover Hadlow Down but also Buxted, High Hurstwood, Five Ash Down, and Maresfield (3 Parish Councils). However under the new boundary guidelines Hadlow Down will be aligned to Rotherfield and instead of having two councillors per ward there will be just one elected official. So there are lots of changes happening and it's been a busy 12 months and the majority of changes have evolved around planning both at local and national levels.

New Local Plan for Wealden District

As you will no doubt be aware Wealden have been developing a New Local Plan which was debated at length at the last Full Council. The latest data coming from air quality monitoring on Ashdown Forest is that the nitrogen deposition is a lot worse than first predicted. Using this evidence and also the recent judgements, Wealden District Council have revised the housing numbers downwards. Neighbouring Districts also have to take into account impacts of their housing numbers on Ashdown Forest and this includes Mid Sussex and Lewes. The full draft consultation local plan has been delayed until July 2017 at which time full sustainability appraisals would have been prepared in relation to the impact of development and increased nitrogen levels on the Ashdown Forest. For more details please refer to Wealden District Council website.

Joint Council Waste Contract

The waste collection project set up between four District Councils and Kier will not continue from 2019 due to it being unaffordable on the part of Kier. A managed exit will be arranged and a new contract will be set up in due course. However, recycling rates are up and Wealden District Council have made significant savings. It is unfortunate that some bins are still be missed or un-emptied and I would encourage any resident who is experiencing problems to report it and make me aware of your missed bin.

New Crematorium for Wealden

Wealden District Council is proposing to build the first crematorium in the District. It will cater for the final wishes of 1,200 local people each year who choose to be cremated. The modern, multi-faith facility will be located on a 12.7 ha site, south of Horam, along on the A267. It will include a Chapel to seat over 120 mourners, a Flower Court and a landscaped Garden of Remembrance. Provisions will include car parking for 150 vehicles and a separate waiting area. Our aim is to allow one hour for each service.

New Council-owned housing company to provide new homes in the district.

As many residents of the Parish will know there is a shortfall of 1 / 2 bedroom flats, affordable homes, These houses will be targeted primarily at young people wishing to get a foot on the housing ladder and older people wishing to downsize. The profits from the company will be reinvested in the Council to keep services running and keep your Council Tax low. Cllr Lunn advised that the new housing company will also provide local employment opportunities and aid the local economy. It will contribute positively to communities, where possible assist with the regeneration of town and village centres, and re-invest funding back into the Council to support existing services.

The Council is carrying out an online survey of people's house buying needs to help it meet specific market demands in the district.

Wealden Council Tax increase by 1.9%

As your local District Councillor I am very aware of the sensitivities regarding Council Tax rises. Unfortunately the Council has had to recommend a 1.9% increase this year. This is the first increase after five years, and it will see Wealden's share of resident's council tax bills increase to £3.41 a week for a Band D property – which is excellent value for money. The increase will be 6.5 pence a week for that Band D property.

In recent years Wealden has reduced its running costs by 25% whilst also moving to becoming self-funding as central government grants are reduced to balance the nation's finances. The Medium Term Financial Strategy covers the period to 2020/21 and requires further cost reductions of around £1 million.

Wealden is the largest district in East Sussex. As well as providing housing, environmental health, planning, building control, refuse and recycling, economic development, tourism and council tax benefits, the District Council is working increasingly with other organisations to improve public health and road safety, support local retailers and businesses and help protect natural and community assets

Residents asked about the Ashdown Forest, ML confirmed that WDC are awaiting the full reports of the results of the nitrogen testing and that the Ashdown Forest regulations are already enshrined under UK law so won't be affected by Brexit.

A resident asked about change in the waste contract, ML confirmed that WDC are negotiating their exit with Kier.

5. ESCC Report: Cllr. Roy Galley (ESCC)

Results for 2016-17

- Despite concerns about overspending budgets, the Council came in on target.
- The Council set a budget for 2017/18 of £365 m.
- ESCC has worked closely with the local NHS including GPs to make best use of combined budgets and the government's additional funding called the Better Care Fund.
- ESCC has acquired EU and national funds to support local businesses. It is calculated that as a direct result businesses have created 633 jobs in 200 different companies.
- The Broadband project has lifted 96% of properties to a 2mgbt level but two additional contracts have been let to increase the scope in difficult to reach areas.
- A significant capital programme has completed the Hastings to Bexhill link road, started investment in Newhaven and Eastbourne and completed schemes in Uckfield and Hailsham. A number of school building projects have also progressed.
- 87% of schools in the County are judged outstanding or good by OFSTED.

Recent developments

- Additional government funding of £22m over the next 3 years has stopped the need for cuts in Adult Social Care.
- Transport grants have allowed for a planned investment in drainage of £1.4m with £300k on pavements and 150k for Community Match.
- The proposed new National Funding Formula for schools whilst increasing overall East Sussex funding for schools by 2.7% would have resulted in losses for most rural schools. ESCC is campaigning strongly for changes.
- A new detailed plan has been agreed on how to spend the total NHS, Better Care and Social Care funding which amounts to £862 m.

Challenges for the next four years

- Full integration of health and social care including GP services.
- Maintaining small schools.
- Encouraging more Academies and perhaps Grammar Schools.
- Making sure the Costain CH2M contract works.
- Further Broadband improvements.
- Implementing a £1m project to reduce the killed and seriously injured on our roads.

Cllr. Galley advised that it had been a joy to work with the Parish Council. The Chair thanked him for his support.

A member of the public asked about roadworks where there are traffic controls but no work being undertaken, Cllr. Galley requested that he be informed where this is happening.

6. Reports from Representatives:

- a. Mayfield Charities: For those of you who don't know me, I am Penny Eliot. Last December I took over from Fiona Bickerton as the Hadlow Down representative on The Mayfield Trust. Fiona had previously filled this role for 30 years. The Mayfield Trust is a small fund, which provides financial assistance to people or families suffering financial hardship. Eligible people must live in the ancient parish of Mayfield, which includes only part of Hadlow Down. Examples of the sort of help we can give, include financial help with installing emergency help lines, providing wheel chairs, or help with school trips. Last year we helped 3 residents of Hadlow Down. If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance please contact me.
- b. St Mark's School: Claire Rivers presented the following report:

St Mark's has experienced an interesting year with a Local Authority audit, a Leadership Transition Review, as I am moving into a phased retirement and a safeguarding audit. We are delighted to report that the school, following extremely rigorous scrutiny was deemed to be Outstanding and this has been verified by our external Professional Partner. Although we haven't had an Ofsted since 2009, this is not surprising as schools with an Outstanding status are no longer routinely inspected, however, the school's results are closely scrutinised by the DfE, complaints are taken into account and any exclusions.

Last year we had our smallest cohort ever taking the SATs, only 7 children. Four of the children in this group had SENs and with the new, far more demanding, tests based on the new national curriculum we were concerned that our attainment (scores from the tests) would not be as high. However, we were delighted that our children achieved the highest progress scores in the Wealden area, making exceptional progress from their first years at school to their last, as did our more vulnerable pupils. Sadly, the national league tables only report attainment to the public.

I was joined by my Co-Head, Mrs Stow, in September, enabling me to have one day a week off, and this is a wonderful way to provide succession planning for a school. We worked together at Jarvis Brook, when I was supporting the school, and we are very much in agreement regarding our educational principles. Our office is cosy and although we sometimes lock chairs, we never lock horns. The staff in our school office think there is far too much laughter, and hilarity, coming from our office, but much work does get done.

Last summer, our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a wonderful week at PGL Windmill Hill with Mr Warren and me. This was a great opportunity for the children to grow in independence, for some to experience their first longer trip away from home and to provide some challenges with demanding activities. They all survived well and supported each other well, and there was little homesickness. One evening at about 1.00am in the morning there was a knock on my door and a boy said to me, "Mrs Rivers, I can't sleep!" I gently accompanied him back to his room and suggested deep breathing and just relaxing even if he couldn't sleep. After that he wasn't the only one that couldn't sleep!!

We continue as a DfE Teaching School which gives us special status and responsibilities for: initial teacher training; leadership programmes; research; professional development; and school to school support. I am now officially the Teaching School Director as this work has grown considerably and I am now on the SE Regional Teaching School Executive, which gives us access to news from the DfE 'hot off the press' and I am on the Governance Board of the

Institute of Education and University College, London, and am currently helping them to write the new programmes for school leadership programmes.

We are keen to ensure our children get plenty of sport and exercise, and with a soggy, muddy field that has provided challenges, however, with our new astro-turf field, which looks so real, we have overcome that problem.

Finance is a key issues for schools at the moment, as I am sure you have heard in the news, and despite the constant message that education is receiving more money than ever before it doesn't take into account the increasing number of pupils in the system, the increased costs across the board, and the apprenticeship levy which all schools must pay regardless of whether they have an apprentice or not. Hence the 'flat cash' appeal launched last term and supported by all schools in East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey. Some schools are experiencing a deficit at the beginning of the financial year, and a large number are having to carry out a staff restructure, or, in the case of secondary schools, close departments completely. Fortunately, St Mark's is still solvent, partly due to our new classroom and the additional money I have been able to earn for the school through my role as a National Leader of Education but there will come a point when we will be struggling too.

Although great proponents of partnerships, of which we have many, we have been leading investigations into ways in which we can work more formally with other schools, with the governments push to academise schools. We would prefer to remain a maintained school and by establishing a good working relationship with other schools in a 'soft federation', that enables effective financial savings, we hope we may be able to escape academisation.

Safeguarding is such an important issue and we work very hard to protect the children in our care, providing a comprehensive e-safety curriculum to keep the children safe online, as they are now accessing technology from such an early age. We also have a service called 'Talkspace' for children and their parents that may have emotional and social problems.

We love being a part of this special village community, which supports the school so well. St Mark's continues to plan an interesting and exciting curriculum for the children and we believe that if they enjoy coming to school, feel safe and secure and know that they are individually valued they will learn and make progress, reaching their full potential.

7. **Financial report** – The Clerk presented the report that appears at the end of these minutes. No questions were asked. The Chair signed the report.

8. **Reports from Councillors:**

(a) Emergency Plan, Highways and Rights of Way and Strengthening Local Relationships meetings – Cllr. Iain Turner
Highways

Nothing much new to report in this area. Costains have taken over the contract and almost a year in there has been some progress but there is still much that needs doing.

Some issues have been resolved such as the reconstruction of the bank in Riverside by the bridge and some resurfacing has taken place around the parish. We continue to fight for a resolution of the drainage problem on the A272/Tinkers Lane Junction and hope the work will be done soon. By attending SLR meetings with representatives from Costains and the Highways department we continue to put our case for this and many other issues.

One of the main hurdles is often the lack of funding now available due to continuous cut backs from central government. With less in the pot it becomes harder to get the funding for the bigger jobs that need doing.

We also continue to try to reduce the speed and volume of traffic passing through the parish with requests for better signage, speed reduction in some parts and also to restrict HGVs on certain roads such as School Lane.

People can still help by logging onto ESCC highways website at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/> and reporting problems. Try to be specific about location, attach pictures if you can and by all means still report the problem even if someone else has done the same.

Emergency Plan

The core of the Plan is complete but sadly there was a very poor response from the community to the survey last year (only 25 households replied). We still need this information for the Plan to be effective so if you haven't already responded please do or if you have hassle other villagers to do so. There are some more survey forms available tonight or alternatively they will be available on the website where you can download, complete and return them to the clerk via email.

(b) Wealden District Association of Local Councils, Planning, Playing Field and Tree Warden – Cllr. Julian Michaelson-Yeates

Planning

The Government are becoming increasingly aware of the acute housing shortage hence the changes to the framework. Increasingly, there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development for brownfield sites. Small sites adjacent to settlement boundaries are to be supported if they are sustainable.

Fortunately for Hadlow Down, we aren't viewed as being a sustainable village. Our public transport links are poor and we have relatively few services locally, car ownership is a necessity. We also remain in the Ashdown Forest special protection area. Consequently, any new build needs to take into account the net traffic contribution to the area.

In the parish, we had another busy year with 25 approved applications of various types, up from 12 for last year.

We have started to see some Part Q permitted development applications coming through. These refer to the development of redundant agricultural buildings into residential. Part Q relates to the section of the Town and Country Planning Act that regulates these types of developments. Part Q don't usually apply to areas within AONB. However, the goal posts moved back in April 2014 when Nick Boles the Planning Minister made a statement in Parliament. In relation to conversion of redundant agricultural building to residential, he said the following. "We expect national parks and other local planning authorities to take a positive and proactive approach to sustainable development, balancing the protection of the landscape with the social and economic wellbeing of the area." What this means in practice is "be positive and receptive or risk being over-ruled by the planning inspectorate when applicants appeal". Wealden have issued their guidance on Part Q permitted development. There are tests on what is applicable and redundant. These new build will be expected to deliver a high quality of enhancement to the landscape with sustainable, bespoke designs, appropriate to the

rural setting. Sites with 15Km of the Ashdown Forest will be required to provide mitigations regarding traffic movements. What this means is that the applicant needs to demonstrate that the traffic movements would be less or no more than might be expected for the building in its agricultural use.

Trees

Staying with the planning theme, some of you may not be aware but there are a large number of trees in the parish with Tree Protection Orders or TPO's.

It's an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a protected tree without permission. You should know from your land charges search when you buy a property if any of the trees on the property are listed. If you are unsure, then phone Wealden with the longitude or latitude position of the tree (you can use Google Earth for this) and they will happily let you know.

If you wish to carry out any form of work on a protected tree, then you are required to submit a tree works order for approval before work can commence. Any reputable tree surgeon will be fully aware of this, just ask for their advice on how to proceed.

WDALC

WDALC is the Wealden Association of Local Councils, in effect it's a liaison group between the Parish Councils across the Weald and Wealden District Council. The meetings are held quarterly and are a very useful communication channel between the Parish and the Council, Fire and Police on key issues of the moment.

Unfortunately, the last 12 months continues to be difficult for Wealden Council, the Police and emergency services who are all having to make efficiencies in order to make do with considerably less. Last year it was the Police who were in the process of downgrading to community response centres. This year it's the turn of the Ambulance Service (SECamb). Currently Uckfield, Heathfield and Hailsham retain their Ambulance Stations. However, SECamb is in a process of centralising stations into larger depots such as Polegate and town ambulance stations into Community response units where crews can wait between calls. So far, SECamb have implemented 68 Community response units across the South Coast.

Playing Field

There is a wonderful team of people on the Playing Field committee and I would like to thank them, Bob Lake and all the other volunteers for all the work they do.

- Visit www.hdpf.uk to see what is happening and look out for the calendar of events
- 29 cricket matches
- 9th June Pop-up dining event
- 16th July Celebrate Dog Show
- 12th August Rude Mechanical Theatre Company
- 9th September Grand Opening of the football pitch
- Current Project is to replace the Roller.

(c) Parish Planning Panel, Police and Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Damon Wellman

Neighbourhood Watch and Crime.

The Hadlow Down online website is the registered neighbourhood watch co-ordinator and does a great job of keeping the public informed of any reported incidents in and around Hadlow Down. Hadlow Down still has one of the lowest reported crime rates both nationally and within Wealden, but that does not make it any more comfortable for the few residents that are unlucky enough to be the victims, so we must continue to be vigilant and continue to report any suspicious incidents, persons or vehicles.

The two most common criminal activities in our area are still outbuilding and shed thefts & heating oil thefts. Distraction techniques for burglaries are still being reported in Wealden, so keeping things secure and always being vigilant goes a long way to avoiding being a victim of these crimes.

This is especially relevant now and going forward as we are still in a situation where, due to funding cuts, the police will not always be able to attend to matters that do not constitute a 'threat to life', thus making response times to rural areas likely to increase.

If anyone sees anything suspicious they should report it by calling 101.

Planning

Changes to the National Planning Framework. Planning continues to change on a regular basis, with the pendulum swinging from one side to the other. We appear to have gone from a build everywhere to a build nowhere in the last few weeks due to the new Ashdown forest nitrogen levels and policy AF1. Further on planning from Julian.

(d) Village Hall and Celebrate – Cllr. Helen Bonnick

Village Hall Management Committee

Many thanks again to the Committee and specifically Janet Tourell and Ainsley Steel for keeping everything moving forward again this year, without everybody's input, but particularly theirs, the Village Hall would not be the asset it is for the village. The Hall is very well used, and will be more so in the Summer as many of the Celebrate events are booked to take place in it. It takes a great deal of time and effort to keep it in a good condition, routine maintenance and deep cleaning have carried on throughout the year, alongside fundraising activities to ensure the hall is financially viable. A review of the Constitution of the Committee has taken place to ensure it reflects the groups using the hall. Unfortunately car parking continues to be an issue at times for hall users especially for larger events.

Celebrate

Thanks to Rachel Lewis the Parish Council was awarded a grant for £10,000 from the Big Lottery to bring the local community together and we have chosen to run a Village Festival. Planning is well under way and the groups involved have worked together to ensure that a series of events will run from the festival launch at the Village Fayre on the 17th June through to September 2017, culminating in a Big Village Party to be held on the 16th September. There are all sorts of events from Samba Drumming, a type of Gardeners Question Time, Stoolball taster sessions, Scarecrow Trails, hopefully something for everybody. Brochures, flyers and Banners are currently at the printers and will be going out and around the

village in May. Many thanks to all the people involved for all their hard work, and giving of their time, particular thanks to Denise Leary the Project Manager for her commitment to getting the best outcomes for the project, hopefully we will find after the festival that more people are more involved in village life.

(e) New Community Centre and Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee – Cllr. Michael Lunn.

Uckfield Railway Parishes Committee

Much of the last year has been taken up discussing the appalling service users have had to experience on the Uckfield line. A series of strikes by the RMT union, followed by poor service, timetabling issues, broken down rolling stock, short formations (8 to 2 carriages) and terminating at Crowborough to add to the problems. The Committee also waited for the much awaited publication of the Government's 'London and South Coast Rail Corridor Study'.

The Committee is made up of all the surrounding Parishes and Uckfield Town Council and has raised consistently about the problems on the line. However the real excitement has been about the outcomes of the study, and potentially spoken very positively and the events of the past twelve months have surpassed the report's objective – to examine a case for Government funding a new main line between London and the Sussex Coast.

During 2016 the London & Southern Counties Railway Consortium (LSCR) was established. LSCR intends to pay for a new feasibility study of up to £9 million on developing a new route introducing greater capacity for the millions of daily commuters and has been working with international investors to supply 100% of the capital. The Consortium sees increasing Government appetite for private investment in UK infrastructure as the ideal opportunity to reposition the dedicated work of the Wealden Line Campaign's Brighton Main Line 2 project, elevating it onto a fully professional, project footing. LSCR has engaged with leading companies who have global expertise in infrastructure, economics, property and financing – transforming the scheme from a good idea to a thoroughly realistic proposition. Clearly we do know what the outcome of this will be and it could still be many years away before we can jump on a train at Buxted and go to Brighton. It is really good that Hadlow Down Parish has a voice on this committee.

New Hadlow Down Community Centre

The Parish Council sits on this Committee as Observers and advisers and not as vote bearing Members. The Committee has through the excellent Chairmanship of Bob Lake secured a grant of £23,000 to move the project forward. The Community Right to Build application is progressing and 3 quotes have recently been submitted and an architect has now been appointed. The Committee will be going out to public consultation during the Celebrate events and also the Village Fayre. As District Councillor I have also sought to ensure that Community Centres have favourable policies when it comes to Ashdown Forest and I have been given assurances that credits will be available for new Community Centres whereby disposal of old sites for affordable or low cost housing might be required. However, this is still subject to public consultation and under the Community Right to Build also a public Referendum. For more information please look at <http://www.hadlowdown.com/Portals/1/Village%20Halls/Com%20Centre%20Newsletter%201.pdf>

A member of the public raised about the parking at Buxted, Cllr Lunn (WDC) advised of the measures that had been taken to try and improve the parking situation.

(f) Burial Ground – Cllr. Sandra Richard

I have recently taken over the duties of looking after the burial ground (for clarification purposes: the burial ground immediately surrounding the church is a 'closed' burial ground and WDC are responsible for maintaining it; the Parish Council is responsible for the 'new' burial ground which is adjacent to the A272 to the east side of the church). I thought that it would not require a lot of 'work' but my dogs and I have discovered that there is more to looking after the burial ground than I first thought – having had to visit on several occasions in the last few months for various issues.

One of the items that arose recently is the question 'when is a parishioner a parishioner?' as we have different rates for burials depending on whether the person is a parishioner or non-parishioner. Our previous definitions were somewhat difficult to check and confirm. Therefore the new definitions of a parishioner is someone who is currently on the electoral register for the parish of Hadlow Down, or was on the register up to a maximum of 18 months prior to their death and in the meantime have been living in a nursing home. If this new definition is not flexible enough, we will have to review it again at a later date.

9. Chairman's Report

It seems no time at all since last year's report, but looking back I can see that a number of changes have occurred. Sadly, but for very good reasons, Graham Terry resigned as a Councillor during the year. He had been a Councillor for a number of years and had a lot of experience and made an enormous contribution towards the Council especially with his great attention to detail. He took on a large amount of work on behalf of us all - it was only after he left and we looked at the long list of what committees, work, etc that he had been doing that we can fully appreciate his contribution. I am very pleased to say that we managed to persuade Helen Bonnick to join the Council and she has been really thrown in the deep end with her work on Celebrate which is most probably larger than we anticipated but hopefully will mean that Hadlow Down has a wonderful summer of activities.

During last year, as well as Celebrate, the Parish Council got involved in supporting the volunteers who cleared the footpath between the Village Hall and Waghorns Lane which, I am sure you will all agree, is wonderful. However, with these two projects which initially appeared to be no problem with the Parish Council's involvement – we, and the people involved, have realised that it is not 'easy' to have the Parish Council directly controlling projects. Due to our governance & regulations, we have to follow strict procedures which result in additional burdens in terms of risk assessments, form-filling, waiting for meetings for decisions to be made and many other problems – this means that the Parish Council may come across as inflexible and pedantic. However, I am afraid that these are the restrictions placed on us as a government body and we cannot change them – however much we may wish to.

This leads on to the role of Helen Johnson, our Parish Clerk, who, partly due to the above projects, has had many things thrown at her in the last year and she continues to support us all with her professionalism and sense of humour. I know that I speak on behalf of the Parish Council, and the parishioners, with thanking her for all of her hard work and dedication to her role.

All of the Parish Councillors have had to work hard this year with most of them putting in the voluntary hours that they do

for the Parish Council alongside their own work commitments and I believe that Hadlow Down is very lucky to have such a dedicated group of people working on their behalf. We always welcome people to attend our meetings and, dare I say it again, we still have a vacancy on the Council for anyone else who may be interested?

10. Questions from the floor

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for all their work and Graham Terry for his time as a Parish Councillor.

11. Closure of business

The meeting closed at 8:53pm

Draft final accounts 2016/17

Income	2015-16		2016-17	
Balance brought forward	3,372.07		3,373.57	
Precept	28,562.00		28,897.00	
Arlington PC broadband & tel. use	120.10		6.66	
Burial ground	130.00		1,660.00	
VAT reclaimed	1,270.56		4,584.42	
ESCC contribution for fingerpost costs	205.00		70.00	
Rent for playing field	1.50		0.25	
Refund of bank fee	25.00		-	
UK Power Networks playing field rent	-		3.61	
Loan	9,975.00		-	
Grants	-		18,775.00	
Transfer from reserves	9,825.00		1,200.00	
Total	53,486.23	53,486.23	58,570.51	58,570.51
Expenditure				
Clerk's salary	10,453.82		13,595.54	
Clerk's training	275.33		328.64	
Administration	999.46		1,162.08	
PC insurance	265.00		273.75	
Subscriptions	667.42		492.61	
Grants	3,509.00		3,066.00	
Hire of hall	506.00		400.00	
Audit	326.30		299.00	
Maintenance of Burial Ground	1,010.00		1,217.88	
Litter & dog bin emptying	1,424.10		1,440.00	
Parish Projects Plan	1,131.00		-	
Fingerpost maintenance	-		200.00	
Chairmen's expenses	125.52		142.39	
Councillor's training	130.00		230.00	
Chair and Councillor's allowance	-		-	
Election expenses	273.75		-	
IT	658.80		-	
Maintenance of play area & inspection	893.00		1,672.50	
Tree work at playing field & play area	680.00		210.00	
Legal fees	2,950.73		1,692.00	
Noticeboard maintenance	-		14.68	
Entrance to playing field	17,540.00		-	
Loan payment	567.07		1,134.14	
Footpath 27c from grant	-		7,448.00	
Celebrate expenses from grant	-		550.00	
Contingencies	-		-	
Transfer into reserves	3,692.87		7,000.00	
VAT paid	2,033.49		2,830.67	
Total	50,112.66	50,112.66	45,399.88	45,399.88
Balance at 31st March	3,373.57		13,170.63	
Plus cheques drawn but not presented	999.90		-	
Current account balance at 31st March	4,373.47		13,170.63	
Earmarked reserves:				
Burial Ground Landscaping	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Property Maintenance	3,262.00		2,812.00	
New Village Hall Fund	5,944.00		5,944.00	
Road Safety Improvements/Highways	3,445.00		3,695.00	
Election Fund	432.00		432.00	

Finger post costs	1,280.00	1,280.00
IT	754.00	754.00
Community Plan	1,700.00	4,700.00
Play equipment	1,692.00	4,692.00
Total earmarked reserves:	19,709.00	25,509.00
Unearmarked reserves	9,248.00	9,348.50
Total reserves & Active Saver balance at 31st March	28,957.00	34,857.50

Notes to accompany 2016-17 figures

Due to the expenditure from the Sussex Lund grant two VAT reclaims have been made this year rather than the normal one. This means that this figure will be a lot lower in 2017-18.

The rent for the playing field is just a nominal charge made to the Playing Field Association. The UK Power Networks contribution is due to them having one of their poles on the land

The Grant income relates to £8825 from the Sussex Lund fund for the work on footpath 27c which runs from Waghorns Lane to west of the village hall and £9950 from the National Lottery for the Hadlow Down festival.

The Clerk's salary now includes a pension in line with new pension regulations.

Grants were made to the Village Hall Committee, Sound Architect, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, Wealden CAB and the Playing Field Committee.

In addition to the regular costs at the playing field, the Parish Council have also paid out for the boundary to be marked out to the south of the play area and for fencing to be installed. This will create a larger area for people to use. The Parish Council also paid for tree work in the play area.

Legal fees continue to be incurred for the playing field in changing the lease with the Hadlow Down Playing Field Association. Unfortunately we are still awaiting a response from the Diocese solicitor and will continue to incur legal costs in 2017/18 until this is completed.

The PC budgeted for funds to be transferred into the new play equipment reserve fund and £3000 was moved into this fund before the end of the financial year. £3000 was transferred into the community plan reserves fund. We will need to pay further legal fees in 2017/18 and it is planned that the costs will be taken from this fund. £1000 was also transferred into the road safety improvements/Highways reserves fund which had been reduced by £750 earlier in the year, due to funds required to pay for legal costs.

Councillors continue to not claim the allowance to which they are entitled and haven't claimed for travel expenses despite attending various external meetings and training courses.