



## Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Hadlow Down Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7.00pm on Tuesday April 19th 2016  
*Note – this is a draft copy to be agreed and amended  
at the next Annual Assembly*

**Present:** Cllrs Sandra Richards (SR)(Chair), Iain Turner (IT), Graham Terry (GT), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY) and Michael Lunn (ML)

**In attendance:** Cllrs Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC) and Toby Illingworth (TI)(WDC) Helen Johnson (Clerk) and members of the public.

Sandra Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Presentation:** A presentation was given by Dr Jeremy Leach, Principal Policy Advisor, Wealden District Council on 'Let me give you a nudge in the right direction'. This was followed by a Questions and Answers session.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Damon Wellman and villagers Rachel Lewis and Lyndsey Waddington.
- 3. The minutes of the 2015 Annual Assembly:** the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4. WDC Report:** Cllr. Toby Illingworth (WDC) – If I could start by talking about the council's finances. This year's budget had to be judged, not just on the year ahead, but the 5 years of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The settlement from the Government's Revenue Support Grant will disappear over the next few years. In the previous year 2015/16 our Revenue Support Grant was £2.3m. This reduces to 1.2m this year, to 290k in 2017/18 and zero from then on. The revenue spend for 2016/17, after taking out the Capital Expenditure Charged to revenue, which is mainly funded by New Homes bonus will be £15.4m with 73% of that funded through Council Tax. Over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2020/21 this will fall to £15.1 and the proportion funded by Council Tax will rise to 82%. Regrettably, it is therefore important to raise council tax this year by 1.9%, which is the equivalent of 7 pence a week for the average Band D Council Tax.

The role of the council is primarily to provide a set of services to residents, for the best possible value. Unfortunately, as we have seen with the County Council, the choice is between increasing revenue or cutting services. This is certainly not a position the District Council want to be in. We have therefore taken the decision now to protect the council's finances for the next five years, and in doing so ensure Wealden continues to provide the services that residents need.

In other news. The council has launched a free weekly email information service, called My Alerts, providing households with useful information such as the waste and recycling collections taking place that week in their road, local planning applications as well as news about Council events. It's already being sent to 25,000 households across the District, but if you have not received a My Alerts from Wealden District Council, please go online to [www.wealden.gov.uk/myalerts](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/myalerts) and register for what we hope you will find to be a useful service.

Last month, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England published its Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Wealden District Council. The Commission's website sets out all the details including an interactive map. The changes locally are quite dramatic with our current ward of Buxted & Maresfield split in three. Maresfield will be grouped with Nutley and Fairwarp, Buxted and High Hurstwood will become its own Ward and Hadlow Down will be part of a new ward with Rotherfield. Each of these new Wards will be single member and contain roughly the same number of voters. The overall number of Councillors on Wealden District Council will also be reduced from 55 to 50. Roy, I am sure will outline more about the ESCC divisions, but the idea is that they will be worked around the district wards so that there will be three District Wards to every county division.

Finally. The District council is also in charge of elections. We have two votes in the next couple of months. The 1st on 5th May for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections and the second on 23rd June for the EU referendum. I would encourage everyone to vote in both polls. The PCC election is expected to have a low turnout, so each vote could make a huge difference. The referendum is one of the biggest decisions we have had to make as a nation for decades. I would urge everyone to check they are registered to vote, in the Referendum before the 7th June deadline. Unfortunately registration for the PCC elections is now closed. Thank you and I am happy to take any questions.

Cllr. Michael Lunn (WDC) - Thank you for the opportunity to address the Parish Assembly tonight. As you know Hadlow Down is my home Parish but I also represent along with Cllr Toby Illingworth Buxted, High Hurstwood, Five Ash Down and Maresfield. Each village is unique and has different issues. As District Councillors we aim to give local people a voice on the inner workings of the District Council. This covers a wide range of services. However, tonight I would like to focus on Planning matters, which I feel will be the greatest interest to members of the Parish.

### 1. Planning issues

As some of you will be aware I sit on the District Council's planning Committee. Every month the committee meets to decide on key planning decisions. The local ward Member is not allowed to vote but we can give representation and recommendations to the committee. However the final decision is made on policy grounds not necessarily personal views. Indeed there have been two interesting applications that have come for discussion at Committee. The first was Wilderness Wood and the second being Five Badgers. Whilst the presumption is normally in favour subject to conditions there are occasions whereby a refusal is necessary. I was therefore particularly pleased with the refusal on the illegal development at Five Badgers.

#### A quick overview on 5 year land supply and the Councils position

- The issue of a council needing a 5 year land supply comes from the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) – Government's clear intention in drafting was to boost significantly the supply of housing.

- If we do not have a 5 year land supply we are at greater risk of unplanned development.
  - We need to maintain a 5 year supply + 5% buffer. If we consistently under supply the buffer goes up to 20%.
  - Our need is based on an objectively assessed housing need (an independent assessment workout on accepted guide lines).
  - Currently we have a published figure that we need to deliver 735 dwellings per annum to cover our plan period 2013 - 2033.
  - Currently the council does not have a 5 year land supply and has published a 4.28 figure. This does not include any duty to corporate figure and is purely based on our own housing market area.
  - Unfortunately our current 4.28 years position is likely to worsen in the short term when we potentially have to consider a higher buffer due to continuing undersupply and a possible duty to corporate requirement.
- What does this mean in practice?
- Under para 49 of the NPPF the lack of a 5 year supply means relevant policies such as development boundaries, saved policies, protective policies i.e. AONB are significantly weakened and viewed as out of date.
  - A recent landmark court of appeal judgement makes it very clear that planning authorities like Wealden (and we are in no way alone in not having a 5 year land supply) should grant permission for housing developments. Without strong grounds e.g. Habitat, drainage capacity or flooding issues, the Council will find refusing permission very hard to justify .
  - The quicker WDC can get its local plan in place the easier it will be for the authority to resist unplanned development coming forward. The problem experienced by Wealden when they publish their housing need figures and are then caught by lack of a 5 year land supply has been recently identified by a ministerial working group in their final report. However, in the short to medium term the council is now vulnerable to uninvited housing schemes from developers given its 5 year position

If you have any concerns on a specific planning application either for or against, it's always useful to copy in your local District Councillors or the Parish Clerk. We can't always support people's objections because we are constrained on planning policies which determine decisions.

A member of the public raised a question about bed blocking and whether WDC's income needed to be raised. He was advised that the Community Infrastructure Levy would raise funds for infrastructure such as hospitals and schools.

5. **ESCC Report:** Cllr. Roy Galley (ESCC) - County Council resources have been cut in recent years but it is still big business. Schools are funded directly by national Government and County simply passes the money on. These 4 slides explain the overall position [these appeared as a powerpoint presentation].

Major focus at ESCC recently-

- The 3 counties of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey making a joint bid to government to take more powers particularly on funding infrastructure.
- One stop shop business support and apprenticeships -700 work opportunities identified.
- Good OFSTED report on school improvement and outcomes. No need to re-inspect the service.
- Completion of Bexhill-Hastings Link Road at a cost of well over £100 million.
- Work on Child Protection plans, Safe Place schemes for the vulnerable, and tackling domestic and sexual abuse.
- A Better Care fund combining County and Health Service resources to establish integrated care.

Highways:

- New Highways Contract begins in May with Costain CH2M.
- 13,337 potholes fixed since January. Aim is to fix emergency ones in 24 hours and less dangerous in a month.
- Despite your scepticism, we have seen improvements on Wilderness Lane, Hastingford Lane, A272 near Curtains Hill etc

Information was given on the budget and where the funding comes from, also on the capital programme to 2017/18 which sets out the Council's investment plans to support its core services in the delivery of the promise to 2017/18. The capital programme includes new buildings, extensions, investments in roads and transport infrastructure and improvements to existing assets.

A member of the public questioned about ESCC no longer running schools and where the funding was coming from for new schools. RG confirmed that schools were still funded by the government and that the Community Infrastructure Levy would help fund new schools.

## 6. Reports from Representatives:

- a. Mayfield Charities: Fiona Bickerton advised that the charity had distributed to 3 families in Hadlow Down at Christmas time. An electric chair had been provided to an elderly lady, funding had been given for 3 children from various schools to attend the Bowles Outdoor Centre and a microwave and fridge freezer had been given to an elderly couple. She had a leaflet on the Mayfield Trust that was available for anyone who was interested and advised that if anyone knew of someone needing support to speak to her.
- b. St Mark's School: Claire Rivers presented the following report:  
We were delighted at the start of the new academic year to be able to open our new classroom, very kindly named 'Rivers Den', for our reception children. We had been concerned about the larger numbers of children in our Y4/5/6 class and the new building has enabled us to separate the early years children, the Egglets, which have a very different curriculum, and to limit each of the remaining 3 classes to 2 year groups. The new class was funded by a government grant for church schools.  
100% of our Y6 children in July, 2015, achieved a L4 in the SATs in reading, writing and maths, which was the national

standard. This was quite an achievement as 4 of that small cohort had been on the special needs register and had made significant progress.

2016 has been an interesting, but challenging, year with the introduction of 'assessment without levels' and all schools have had to make decisions about how they will record, track and account for the progress of their children. I think we have managed to create manageable and effective systems to achieve this. This year we will see the new national curriculum tests for children at 7 and 11. When we showed the parents/governors examples of these tests many struggled to complete the 7 year old maths and the spelling, grammar and punctuation tests. A secondary teacher said that the 11 year old test had many aspects of the GCSE English test. Most schools are panicking this year that their children will struggle not having had a chance to cover all aspects of the new national curriculum.

The Singapore maths/mastery approach in Y2 has been rolled out across the school has been highly successful with the children making significant progress. As one of the only schools in the country using these materials in mixed age classes we have been filmed by Oxford University Press and I have written a guidance paper for schools wishing to use this way of teaching in mixed age classes.

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. We are pleased that one school we supported came out of special measures in just over 6 months and another achieved 'good' in their recent Ofsted inspection.

Education is currently a turbulent world with talk of academies and the wonder, but also the dangers, of the internet. We are determined to stay positive and, whatever may prevail, we will continue to think of the individual needs of our St Mark's children, to provide them with: a stimulating broad and balanced curriculum, embracing current technology, that excites them to learn; to involve them in the community in which they live; and to become resilient, but sensitive, human beings prepared for the rich tapestry of life.

The Chair advised that the village were very proud of the school and the work being done there.

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

8. **Reports from Councillors:**

a. **Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee – Cllr. Michael Lunn.**

Items discussed by the Committee:

- Platform lengthening
- Crowborough Tunnel repairs
- Extra carriages (due later this year)
- Car parking issues
- Ticket office closures
- Poor rail service and communications
- Opening of new Uckfield Station car park
- Straightening of track to increase speeds along line
- Problems with short formations
- Terminating services at Crowborough

New Economic Study:

- Chancellor announced in Autumn statement the £100k funding of a new economic study
- Consultants looking at much wider benefits of reopening line from Brighton through to Canary Wharf.

Key issues

- Lewes / East Croydon /Canary Wharf/Gatwick
- Ashcombe Tunnel under South Downs
- Crossing Uckfield High Street
- Reopening line Lewes - Uckfield
- Doubling track
- Electrification of line
- Study results due Autumn 2016
- Implications for residents / businesses

Vision

- The vision is to connect expanding economic and population centres in London and the South East with a new electrified double track rail link, bringing businesses and communities closer together to drive sustained economic growth.

b. **Playing Field, Village Hall, Burial Ground and New Community Centre – Cllr. Graham Terry**

**Playing Field Committee** - At the end of the year I took over responsibility for the Playing Field from Nathan so most of the activity took place whilst Nathan was the Parish Council representative. However, I have always maintained my interest in the Playing Field and I believe I am aware of what has happened in the last 12 months.

The big event is the drainage project. Those of you who use the field for any purpose will be aware of how wet it gets during the winter. In recent years it has become so bad that the junior football teams that were using it could not do so and have left us. The Village Fayre has had to be cancelled or the date moved, and at Bonfire Night the mud has been unbelievable. Hence the drainage project. The Playing Field Committee, with a huge amount of help from Bob Lake, obtained the grants they needed to have the work done and the drainage work started last year, the first stage being the levelling of the upper field. Unfortunately, the field became so wet that the project could not continue and we are still waiting for the conditions to improve. The field at the moment is the wettest I have ever seen and I congratulate the Playing Field Committee in keeping the field as neat and tidy as it is despite the weather. Clearly, the Parish Council help in their financial costs such as the grounds maintenance and grass cutting.

**Village Hall Management Committee** - Our booking clerk, Beatrice Felicite, had to stand down due to family commitments but we were very lucky that Ainsley Steel has stepped in and taken over the role. She is also active on the

School Friends Committee and the Village Fayre Committee so we were very grateful that she could find the time. The Committee are still aiming to keep the old Hall going until we can get a new hall built and this often seems to mean that we are wasting money – not so, we have to ensure the building is safe and reasonable to use. We can do nothing about its basic structure but can make it a pleasant place to hold events. Among the things that were done during the year, the main floor was cleaned, sanded and re-sealed.

The TN22 and TN22plus clubs continue to provide a regular weekly meeting point for elderly residents and have been so successful that similar clubs are starting in other local villages.

I must give our thanks to the Committee, particularly Janet Tourell, who work extremely hard to keep the facility going and spend a lot of their own time cleaning, applying for grants, running fund-raising events etc and without them the facility would become unusable.

**The Burial Ground** - Like the rest of the country the burial ground has suffered from the wet weather and at the moment is extremely wet. However, it remains a little sanctuary within the village and, judging by the new flowers on many graves, is visited regularly by the relatives of those laid to rest there. We have to maintain the area all the time and hope to pay for this from the burial income. The last 12 months have been a quiet period with no new burials so our costs have exceeded the income.

**New Community Centre Committee** - Even our efforts to move forward with the plans based on using Permitted Development Rights could not move forward so, again, we have had to change our views and having obtained a small grant we went to a consultant to see about a different approach. As a result of this we are going down a different route involving a designation of Hadlow Down as a Neighbourhood Area and the subsequent use of a Community Right to Build Order. Community Right to Build Orders are part of the government's localism plans and simply put they let the community decide whether a building project is right for the community. Of course, as you can imagine it is not quite that simple but it is a way by which we can achieve what we want. The Neighbourhood Area request has been submitted to Wealden and the process of consultation has started. You may have seen this in the Parish Magazine or on the Wealden or Hadlow Down websites. If you have views please pass them through to Wealden as the articles explain.

**c. Parish Planning Panel, Police and Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Damon Wellman**  
**Neighbourhood Watch and Crime:**

The Hadlow Down online website is a registered Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and does a fantastic job of keeping the public informed of any reported incidents in and around Hadlow Down. Statistically Hadlow Down 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 not take our eye off the ball for a second, continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity, 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 facing 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'. Also more Police stations are set to close to meet those funding cuts, thus making response times to rural areas likely to increase.

**Planning:**

Changes to the National Planning Framework - This year sees more changes to broaden planning with the aim of further development, mainly around new housing.

The direction of the new planning guidance is:

- broadening the definition of affordable housing, to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their new home;
  - Increasing residential density around commuter hubs, to make more efficient use of land in suitable locations
  - Supporting sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites, and delivery of housing allocated in plans
  - Supporting delivery of starter homes.
- Further on planning from Julian.

**d. Wealden District Association of Local Councils, Planning and Tree Warden – Cllr. Julian Michaelson-Yeates**  
**Planning:**

You have heard from Damon about changes to the National Planning Framework. It's the policy that sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied by local authorities such as Wealden. Over the course of the year, both Damon and I have attended briefing and training sessions aimed at updating Parish Councils on changes to this framework.

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 17 applications of various types (mainly extensions, windows, stables and entrances) of which 12 were approved.

We had a major application in terms of Wilderness Wood that attracted as much support as it did objections from across the village. The owners Dan and Emily did a lot to keep everyone informed with their presentation evenings for villagers as well as presenting to the Parish Council. The application went to the Wealden Planning Committee twice, the second time with a smaller scheme being approved with conditions for noise control in respect of the event side of the business. We are pleased that Dan and Emily can now progress with their plans to move the Wood onto a new phase and we wish them every success.

Not all applications are as successful, as you can see over the course of the year 5 applications were refused, there were 3 enforcements and 1 planning inquiry.

### **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, willfully 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.

On the subject of trees, the Parish Council commissioned a tree survey for the playing field. There are quite a number of trees running along the boundary of the field. As landowners we have a legal responsibility to ensure that the playing field is a safe place. A number of the trees required work to ensure that they were safe. As ever, we are indebted to the Playing Field Committee who have been very helpful in undertaking some of the remedial tree work on our behalf.

### **WDALC**

WDALC is the Wealden District 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 District Council, Fire and Police on key issues of the moment.

Unfortunately, the last 12 months there have been some pretty difficult conversations, mostly related to cuts by the Police which involve the withdrawal of PCSO's from more rural areas to focus on policing priorities in towns along the coastal belt. The driver of course is the £57M of cuts to Sussex Police over the next 3 years. The property portfolio is also being reviewed with Crowborough, Uckfield and Heathfield being targeted for station consolidation. We have been assured by Sussex Police that the North Weald will retain a response centre but there may not be a station presence in all of these towns.

The consultation of the new local Plan was also heavily discussed. The new house targets in the plan particularly impact towns and villages in the South Weald. Having said that large numbers of houses are targeted for Mayfield and Heathfield. Uckfield of course has already had 1,000 houses approved.

The condition of the roads is always a pretty hot topic. ESCC have recently awarded a new 7 year highways maintenance contract to Costain. Of course, the basis of the new contract is also part of a large cost cutting exercise being undertaken by ESCC so we will watch with interest to see if there are service improvements as promised.

### **e. Emergency Plan, Highways and Rights of Way and Strengthening Local Relationships meetings – Cllr. Iain Turner**

#### **Highways**

It's been a busy period on this front and at times it has felt like a front. With the wet winter there have been lots of issues with regard to drainage problems throughout the Parish. Some of these have been or are being resolved (one by members of the Parish Council actually going out and digging out a blocked ditch themselves) and some had resolved themselves by the time highways got round to inspecting. In fairness to them, there were an exceptionally high volume of incidents for the stewards to attend. One notable location is the A272 junction with Tinkers Lane. We have made some progress in getting Highways to agree that there is a problem and a solution needs to be found which they are now working on. Watch this space!

We are making some progress with pushing for the repairs to the surface at the junction of the A272 and A267, partly thanks to Cllr Galley joining the fray. The good news is that it was repaired on 14/4 along with several other jobs we have been pushing.

As well as the obvious financial factors, part of the problem appears to be that there is a transition going on where a different contractor is taking over the highways responsibility so we are in a bit of a "limbo" period. We will however continue to pursue issues both existing and new.

People can help by logging onto 'Fix My Street' 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**

I am currently working on a new Emergency Plan that will be designed for any incident large or small. It will just be a case of the incident being evaluated and then the appropriate level of response being employed by the Emergency Team. To assist this we are circulating a new Resource survey with the Parish Magazine and there are also some available here for people to take and/or even complete and leave tonight.

### **9. Chair's Report**

At the 2015 Annual Assembly I was very happy to announce that we had a full complement of Councillors (7) – however, things have moved on and two Councillors have resigned during the year: Clare Emsden and Nathan James and I would like to extend my thanks to both of them for their very hard work over the previous 4-5 years and their extremely valuable contribution towards the PC. We have managed to 'persuade' a new Councillor Iain Turner to join us and I am very grateful to him for his contribution so far and, I hope, into the future. We are still looking for a further willing volunteer to join us and therefore if anyone is interested, please contact either Helen or myself for further details. Being a Councillor does mean a commitment as there is a lot to read as well as attending the various meetings, however, I am sure my fellow Councillors would agree – it is very important for us that Hadlow Down continues to have a 'voice' in topics that affect all the parishioners and therefore hope that you all will continue to support us. As always, I have to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Councillors for their help and support which sometimes goes above and beyond the prescribed role.

In the past year, the Parish Council have completed the purchase of the access land to the Playing Field from the St Marks School Trust (part of the Church). This had been a long drawn out process but was finally achieved. We are now

in the process of extending the Playing Field Committee's lease to cover the additional part of the land. As stated before, the land itself and the fact that we now own the access to the main playing field area will be a great asset for the village. Many of you will also see that we have purchased a defibrillator which is attached to the village hall outside the front door (please have a look as you go out). This is for the use of anyone in the village who may need it (hopefully not often) and is meant to be fool-proof to use and we would like to ensure that as many people as possible know that it is available. You have heard from both ESCC, Wealden DC, the Police, etc that their funding from central government has and will continue to be cut dramatically and therefore they are having to re-prioritise and focus their spending. We are all aware that we spend a lot of money on our Council Tax each year and should have expectations of the kind of service that we should get from that money – however, there are areas where we can do some self-help such as: picking up litter when you see it, picking up your dog's poo AND disposing of it in the bins provided, clearing the entrances to ditches and gullies near your property, etc – I have to emphasise that this should only be done if it is safe to do so.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our Clerk, Helen Johnson, who continues to work in an extremely professional and efficient capacity to support the Council. The PC are aware that we are extremely lucky to have her and are grateful for the support that we and the village receive from her services.

#### 10. Questions from the floor:

A member of the public asked about a tree condition survey for the oak tree in Hut Lane and it was confirmed that the Parish Council were advised by the developer that one would be undertaken as part of their planning application.

A member of the public asked about the rubbish that had been left on the land south of the Village Hall, the Clerk confirmed that WDC would be contacting the landowner.

A discussion was held on the state of Hut Lane and the problems with parking in the area, the Parish Council were asked if they could adopt the lane and the Chair advised that the Parish Council would look into this.

A member of the public gave a vote of thanks to the Chair and the Parish Council for all their work. He also thanked Wendy Neill for her work on the Parish Magazine, Janet Tourell as chair of the Village Hall committee and all societies and committees for improving the quality of life of villagers and thanked the district and county councillors for all their work.

#### 11. Closure of business

The meeting closed at 8:50pm when those present enjoyed refreshments provided by the Council.

### DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS 2015-16

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>2014-15</u></b>	<b><u>2015-16</u></b>		
Balance brought forward	5,372.07	3,372.07		
Precept	27,887.00	28,562.00		
Arlington PC broadband & tel. use	235.88	120.10		
Arlington PC LCR subs & stationery	9.55	-		
Burial ground	710.00	130.00		
VAT reclaimed	1,332.26	1,270.56		
Refund of overpayment from WDC	142.56	-		
ESCC contribution for fingerpost costs	-	205.00		
Rent for playing field	-	1.50		
Refund of bank fee	-	25.00		
Loan	-	9,975.00		
Transfer from reserves	556.00	9,825.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,245.32</b>	<b>36,245.32</b>	<b>53,486.23</b>	<b>53,486.23</b>

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b><u>2014-15</u></b>	<b><u>2015-16</u></b>
Clerk's salary	10,232.90	10,453.82
Clerk's training	68.38	275.33
Administration	1,299.33	999.46
PC insurance	289.43	265.00
Subscriptions	415.58	667.42
Grants	2,010.00	3,509.00
s.137 grants	150.00	-
Hire of hall	400.00	506.00
Audit	311.30	326.30
Councillor's travelling expenses	-	-
Maintenance of Burial Ground	1,598.00	1,010.00
Litter & dog bin emptying	1,329.95	1,424.10
Parish Projects Plan	66.65	1,131.00
Fingerpost maintenance	660.00	-
Chairmen's expenses	130.82	125.52
Parish Magazine	250.00	-
Councillor's training	120.00	130.00
Chair and Councillor's allowance	-	-

Election expenses	-		273.75	
IT	308.70		658.80	
Maintenance of play area & inspection	1,153.00		893.00	
Tree work at playing field & play area	-		680.00	
Legal fees	997.67		2,950.73	
Entrance to playing field	555.87		17,540.00	
Loan payment	-		567.07	
Contingencies	155.00		-	
Transfer into reserves	9,076.35		3,692.87	
VAT paid	1,294.32		2,033.49	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,873.25</b>	<b>32,873.25</b>	<b>50,112.66</b>	<b>50,112.66</b>
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>3,372.07</b>		<b>3,373.57</b>
Plus cheques drawn but not presented		695.00		999.90
<b>Current account balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>4,067.07</b>		<b>4,373.47</b>
<b>Earmarked reserves:</b>				
Burial Ground Landscaping	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Property Maintenance	7,527.00		3,262.00	
New Village Hall Fund	5,944.00		5,944.00	
Road Safety Improvements	2,100.00		2,100.00	
Election Fund	3,432.00		432.00	
Fingerpost costs	2,780.00		1,280.00	
IT	1,814.00		754.00	
Community Plan	1,700.00		1,700.00	
Highways	1,345.00		1,345.00	
Play equipment			1,692.00	
<b>Total earmarked reserves:</b>	<b>27,842.00</b>		<b>19,709.00</b>	
Unearmarked reserves	7,141.00		9,248.00	
<b>Total reserves &amp; Active Saver balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March:</b>	<b>34,983.00</b>		<b>28,957.00</b>	

Notes to accompany 2015-16 figures

The income from Arlington Parish Council (PC) is due to the Clerk being employed as Clerk for that PC till September 2015.

Until that time the 2 PCs shared the broadband and telephone costs and some subscription charges.

The loan was for the purchase of the land at the entrance to the playing field, the remainder of the £17,500 cost was taken from reserves. The loan is for a 10 year period.

The subscriptions are higher due to membership of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group. Also the PC had to pay a higher charge for the subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks as this was no longer shared with Arlington PC.

The donations include £700 for grass cutting at the playing field, grants totalling £2320.80 (£1200 of which was taken out of reserves) for legal advice and work for the Playing Field Association and grants to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Home Start South Downs, Uckfield Railway Line Parishes, Sussex Air Ambulance and the TN22 Club.

The purchase of a defibrillator and case are included in the Parish Projects Plan figure. The cost of this was taken from reserves. These are located on the wall next to the entrance of the village hall.

IT includes the cost of a new printer and laptop and work on the previous and the new computer.

The legal fees figure relates to the PC's legal costs for the purchase of the land at the entrance to the playing field and for advice relating to the playing field.

The entrance to the playing field expenditure relates to the cost of the land and the Land Registry fee.

The PC have added a new reserve fund for play equipment.

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.