



Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Hadlow Down Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday April 20th 2010

Present: Cllrs Paul James (Chairman), David Walker, Lucy McConachie, Michael Lunn and Lisa Scott

In attendance: Cllr Tony Reid (ESCC), PCSO Katie Breeds, Helen Simpson-Wells (Clerk) and members of the public.

Paul James welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Presentation by Sandra Richards:** Sandra gave an excellent presentation on the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau. She then answered questions from the audience.
2. **Presentation by Mike Pashler:** Mike, Head of Waste and Commercial Services at WDC, gave a presentation on the new kerbside recycling scheme, he then answered questions from the audience.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr. Graham Terry and Cllrs. Norman Buck and Ken Ogden (WDC).
4. **The minutes of the 2009 Annual Assembly:** These were approved and agreed as a true record by all.
5. **PCSO Katie Breeds:** Katie advised that East Sussex Division met all their targets for all the detection rates. There have been 17 crimes in the Hadlow Down area in the last 12 months, of these 1 was a serious crime, aggravated burglary, at this stage there are no suspects. Crimes reported include theft from vehicles, including handbags that have been left in cars and theft from outbuildings. The police advise not to leave tools or handbags in vehicles. There have been 17 reports of suspicious vehicles. If people don't hear back from the police when they have reported something it is probably because action is being taken but secrecy is having to be maintained. A resident was trying to organise Speedwatch, the 30mph limit has been in the village for 12 months so Speedwatch can now commence.
Katie advised that she would like residents to be on her panel, the panel meets every 3 months and the priorities are currently parking, speeding and anti-social behaviour.
Chair raised that KB had undertaken cycling training, KB said that she hasn't at present got the use of a bike however they are trying to secure funding in order to obtain more bikes.
ML asked how many reported incidents there had been in Hadlow Down in the last 12 months. KB advised that she would get back to him with the figure.
ML asked about operation Crackdown and speeding motorbikes through the village. KB advised that there are 3-4 police on motorbikes in the area, most of which are unmarked motorbikes. She advised that the Parish Council (PC) could send a formal request to her that a response be made about what is happening regarding speeding motorbikes. With operation Crackdown there is a Casualty Reduction Team who are based in Uckfield and undertake home visits to people who have been reported a number of times, they also target specific people. The more times people report problems the more chance there is that something will be done.
6. **Financial Report:** Copy of report attached.
7. **Reports from Representatives:**
 - a. **Mayfield Charities:** Fiona Bickerton thanked Sandra Richards for highlighting the Mayfield Charities in her presentation and for referring people to them. They have helped 6 people this year, 1 of which lives in Five Ashes. 3 children from the school have been helped with sport or outside activities. Fiona requested that people let herself or the clerk know if anyone wants help.
 - b. **St Mark's School:** Vicky Richards reported that apologies received from Claire Rivers. Key events in 2010:-
 - Completion of the exciting building project – 1) New extension, new classroom, ICT suite/group room, staffroom
 - 2) Improvements- accessible toilet, library, play deck, headteacher's office & reprographics room 3) New ' Wings to Fly' garden, re-surfaced playground.The support we received from parents and the village community was tremendous and much appreciated by the school - £15,000 was raised.
The building work has had a huge impact on the school providing state of the art ICT facilities which has increased our ability to make full use of the School Learning Platform, excellent play facilities to develop the learning of our youngest children, space for our Y2/3 children.
 - Ofsted Inspection June 2009 - carried out by an experienced inspector who was also an HMI under the new framework, which has raised the bar considerably - more lesson observations, discussions with pupils, scrutiny of work/tracking of progress across the school. The school achieved 'outstanding' in all areas, with which we were delighted.
 - Diocesan Inspection within a week of the main Ofsted - was also Outstanding in all areas - close scrutiny of Collective worship, RE, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education.
 - Smile (St Mark's Ideal Learning Environment) Meadow- named by the children. Our wonderful outside classroom for which we pay £1 a year. The parents with Mr Warren have been developing the facility and with money raised from Neil's Meal we will build a shelter. In the summer the children will be making life sized willow animals to place around the meadow.

- Grants- we have been lucky in securing a number of grants that enable us to carry out exciting projects and the latest Big Lottery sum will provide the funding for the New Hadlow Down Village Hall film.
- Further links- in addition to our links with a school in Ghana and London, we now have a link with a school in Pinneburg, Germany.

The school also enjoyed a videoconferencing project with some East Sussex schools.

Conclusion:-

There have been so many events and wonderful learning opportunities they are too numerous to mention, but all who work at the school are proud of the strong connections we have with the village and we appreciate the terrific benefits of such a positive relationship. The villagers are friends of St Mark's joining us for social events, helping with clubs and special occasions, such as, World Book Day and Skill Share Day. As Head, when I first started I joined in village events, such as, the Variety Club to get to know people, but I now feel we have so many friends in the village, and greatly value the warmth with which the school has been taken into the heart of the village. Thank you, all, it makes the school a very special place for our learners, in this very special village.

8. Reports from Councillors:

a. Planning, Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker. – Chairman of the Planning Committee:

Planning - There haven't been many controversial planning applications this year and may that continue. We on the Parish Council are having to change the way we look at the plans as we are having to come into the 21st century, this entails viewing the plans via the computer on a screen. This will take a bit of getting used to.

As you will all have seen and read the New Inn may be getting a revamp and this Parish Council is completely behind the scheme. The Chair advised members of the public that the pre application plans for the New Inn were available for inspection after the meeting and people could put their comments on the paper provided.

As we live in an AONB we always take this into consideration in making decisions, although we make our views known, WDC have the last word.

Highways - I have regular meetings with ESCC Highways every three or four months. At these meetings we discuss the condition of roads, blocked gullies, overgrown hedges and overgrown footpaths.

Many repairs have been carried out this year, the Main Road exiting the village by Waste Wood, repairs around drains making it better for cyclists, but there are still many more to go. As we all know this winter was a very bad one and the roads are now in a very poor state. ESCC's priority is to repair the main roads so the lanes are still left full of holes. As I have been told a pothole is defined as 2" or more deep. A lot of the gullies have been cleared but this is an ongoing thing.

So these meetings are worthwhile and do get things done, so if you see any problems please let us know and this will be reported to ESCC and we will try and get it unblocked, cut back or repaired.

If you have a hedge which is overhanging the road, footpath or sign please do your bit and cut it back making our village a nice and safe place to be. After the birds have finished nesting!

I have noticed over the past year that there have been more dog fouling of our walkways. Most people do collect and bag it up but there are still those who don't and spoil it for the rest of us, so if you don't presently pick up please could you do your bit and do so.

b. Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – not much to report.

c. Neighbourhood Watch, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee - Cllr. Graham Terry – NHW -

The police tell us that crime is falling – it doesn't feel that way in Hadlow Down this last year. The burglary and assault in Wilderness Lane was horrific and, hopefully, a one-off. But there have been numerous other incidents that NHW members have reported. Thefts have been far too frequent – my own front gates were taken at 7 pm on a Saturday night for example - and NHW members have reported a number of suspicious vehicles seen in the area. We continue to report all incidents, no matter how small, as it is very important that we don't allow the impression to grow that "It's not worth reporting, nothing ever happens". By continually reporting our suspicions and the actual incidents that happen we will catch some of the people that make our lives unsafe. Please encourage all your neighbours to join NHW to give the best chance of success.

Remember that you can always use the Police non-emergency number to report suspicions but do use the 999 number when you need an immediate response. The police non-emergency number is 0845 60 70 999.

New Village Hall Working Party - A considerable amount has happened over the last 12 months, culminating in a report and recommendation to the Parish Council last year. The Parish Council fully supported the recommendations – in brief, a new Community Centre on the Playing Field and have included funding for part of the design stage in this year's precept. A new Community Centre was a clear outcome from Michael Lunn's Parish Plan work as well as the work done by the Committee.

We have spent time at Lewes in the archives sorting out the ownership of the existing Hall and so on and have also had meetings with the experts in NALC, AiRS and SALC on how to proceed and the ways of money raising etc.

The next stage is to form a new Committee to take the next steps forward and Barbara Beaton from AiRS has given us ideas on how this is best taken forward.

At the same time, Vicky Richards and Rachel Lewis have got funding for a School project which will have the children interviewing interested parties and finding out in more detail what the needs of the new Community Centre will be. This is a very exciting project and will, we are sure, give us a firm platform when we start the fundraising.

Playing Field Committee - Very exciting work this year on the Playing Field facilities. Peter Gillies and his team applied for and got a grant for a play area and work has started. Already there is a new ball wall in the pit which children can use to kick balls against or use as a goal or cricket stumps, together with a new swing on the tree which is safe to use for the children without removing any enjoyment. The final area will include an aerial slide and underground tubes for the children to crawl through. The aim is to have something for all ages to use by having different parts of the Playing Field with different activities. A tremendous vote of thanks must go to Peter for the drive and work he has put into the

project. There is no doubt the area will be a tremendous asset to the Village and we must organise an official opening ceremony when the work is complete.

In addition, the football teams from Jarvis Brook seemed to use the playing field facilities a great deal and some Hadlow Down children have been involved there and in the other football "training" which has taken place each week with some of St Mark's children.

Speed limits - The new speed limits have been in place for almost 12 months now and whilst speeds have reduced there are considerable numbers of drivers, including our residents, who detest the limits and completely ignore them. We had hoped that we could operate Speedwatch here but the antagonism shown by some residents coupled with a general lack of support has caused that project to be cancelled. It is a shame as the new limits would have helped to make the Village safer, if we could encourage their observance.

Village Fayre and Winterfest - I cannot end without mentioning these 2 Village events. The Fayre was financially less successful this year although very much enjoyed but the Winterfest was both enjoyable and financially successful. We are always looking for ways we can use any profits to help the Village and if there are any other good causes we can support please let us know. Meantime, make a note of the next Fayre on 19th June this year.

d. Wealdlink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – Over the past year I have continued to follow the changes in the bus timetable and even though we have gained one extra journey on the 319 service, it is always under review and the times have changed again recently. I spoke to a bus user last week at the bus stop and she told me the bus company keep them well informed of any changes.

We have also gained a Monday shopper service to Eastbourne, the 196/7, I have leaflets with details available. From March this year, parishioners have the chance to access the Wealdlink service. This is a great service for anybody who can't access public transport or have no transport of their own. It's a flat rate of £1 to the Crowborough supermarket of your choice, it picks you up at your door and helps you unload when you get home. You have to phone and book the night before and leaflets for this service are also available.

e. Village Hall Management Committee, Youth and Emergency Planning – Cllr. Lisa Scott – VHMC - Last year the Village Hall Committee decided there were some major priorities if they were to continue to function properly as a venue for village meetings, clubs and entertainment. After the bitterly cold winter of 08/09, it was important that the building should be warmer and more inviting. We already had the excellent blinds and it was decided that cavity wall insulation should also be installed. In addition new electricity meters were required because the old ones were malfunctioning and not covering the electricity bills! This work was completed with financial help from the Parish Council in the autumn and the benefit was immediately apparent. The Hall is never going to be really cosy but it does seem to hold the heat better than it did.

There are still many tasks to do. The roof insulation and replacement of the ceiling tiles is an important area to address; apart from the obvious benefit of warmth, the Hall would look less scruffy if they were replaced, however none of this can be done until the roof leak is mended and the bucket taken away. It is hoped that we might be able to do something about this in the coming year.

More important still is the issue of safety, the fire exit steps on the north of the building need urgent attention and access to the front entrance needs a rail, a ramp, or both as there have been one or two near accidents there. On the plus side we do now have a removable ramp for disability access on the south side of the building – it just needs a bit of welding done!

Parking, that perennial problem, is still causing difficulties. In order to help our neighbours we have now got parking notices and cones to exclude vehicles from areas where emergency vehicles would find it difficult to get by. Villagers, who are regular visitors to the Hall know to park elsewhere, but when there is a large function like the Horticultural Society Show, the Variety Club performances or more recently the Bowls Club's Round Robin Tournament, the horrendous parking often causes irritation and a certain amount of bad temper, which mars an otherwise pleasant occasion. Any constructive suggestions as to how we can solve this difficulty would be welcomed!!

It can't have escaped anyone's notice that the recent appalling wet weather over the past couple of years is contributing to the erosion of the sides of Hut Lane and the failure of drainage; most of the subsequent mud and rubble ends up at the front of the Hall and blocks the gullies on the south side of the building. During the winter months the main access to our Hall resembles a mud-bath; again, we are trying to address this problem.

This year the Hall has been used pretty extensively. Bookings for parties have increased, the improved appearance of the building must have helped, and the regular bookings for clubs have held up well. The Bowls Club and the Variety Club have increased their membership, the latter also spawning a tap-dancing group which now meets on a separate night of the week.

Last year the Hall hosted a number of interesting functions. In May the Village Hall Committee and the Horticultural Society arranged a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning. This proved to be very successful and another one will be held on Saturday May 22nd this year to which everyone here is invited. The Hall Committee also hosted an Open Day in July when the Village Print was launched, if you haven't already seen it, it's on display tonight.

In addition the Hall was the venue for the Variety Club's very first Murder, Mystery Night (so popular that they subsequently 'toured' to West Kent College) and their November shows. In the autumn, and in line with our current thinking, there was a Talent Night for the youth of the Village and the surrounding area. It was good to see so many talented children and teenagers using the place; another Talent Night is planned for this autumn. Recently there has also been a performance by the Rude Mechanicals for the younger children of the Village and it is hoped that there will be a few more occasions like this.

Financially this year has been a bit of a struggle but the Committee appreciates the help and encouragement of the Parish Council and until the New Community Hall is built hopes for their continued support.

Youth - Now I am more settled in as a Parish Councillor, I have made a very small step with my roll as Youth Councillor. I know there is a demand for a youth club in the village as the previous club was very well attended. I think its downfall was through the lack of storage here in the hall for equipment and adult volunteers.

So we need a rethink

I requested ideas and offers for help via The Parish Magazine. I received one reply. This was from a young girl who does not even live in the Village yet but found the information on our village website. But who am I kidding no self-respecting teenager would be seen reading the Parish Magazine.

My next plan of attack will be to invite a band to play here in the Hall (my contact for the band is currently stranded in New York) and I hope like the Pied Piper I can lure the youth of the village in and ask them what they want. I will keep putting on similar events in the hope they will start to tell me what they like/don't like, and hopefully with my help start to plan their own ideas, whether it be trips out, or using the hall or playing field.

I would still be looking for some adult input and offers of help for these events.

In the meantime the Parish Council will be supporting the Playing Field Committee with the exciting new play area and Hadlow Down Toddler group. The Village Hall Committee is also concentrating on holding more shows including another Talent Night all aimed at our younger villagers.

Emergency Planning – report provided by Eddie Westfield – The Emergency Plan team has had a fairly quiet year compared with previous years in communications, training and development matters for a number of reasons.

In the Autumn of 2009 John Wood, the Wealden Emergency Plan Co-ordinator was promoted to another position within WDC and it was decided not to replace him. Instead the responsibility for Emergency Plan Co-ordination was passed to East Sussex County Council officer Jim Foster as an extra responsibility to his existing remit. After an initial exchange of recognition it is regretted that the Emergency Plan Team has heard nothing from East Sussex County Council regarding Emergency Plans since.

Being a member of the Emergency Plan Team is probably one of the most unattractive roles that any local volunteer can take on. Unlike the New Village Hall Committee where a vision of a grand new building and facilities can be worked toward, or a Playing Field Committee who see through projects to benefit the younger members of our community and other exciting things dedicated parishioners get involved in, such as improving youth facilities and in the case of the Parish Council generally working on behalf of all villagers for a better place to live, the Emergency Plan can have no final goal, no wonderful vision of the future, in fact everyone in the village hopes they will never have to hear that the team have achieved anything and the team themselves hope they will never be called upon to prove their worth or have to act in any way on behalf of the village. It not only seems a thankless role, but as long as there is no major emergency it will always be seen as thankless role! It is, therefore, understandable that occasionally some team members will also take on other more exciting village volunteer responsibilities and find that the time they can give to the Emergency Plan is lessened. Other commitments outside of village interests can also mean members will sometimes not be able to offer as much input as they had in the past.

After discussion with members of the team, ex members of the team and some potential new members it is apparent that the consensus of opinion among all those is that however the circumstances of team members change they should not be lost to the Emergency Plan and, if willing, once having served on the Emergency Plan Team should always be updated with changing information, plans and procedures etc. This suggestion does mean that parts of the Parish Emergency Plan Document will have to be re-written and the chair is currently in the process of producing a draft that will be presented to the Parish Council for approval in the near future.

The Team's biggest concern over the last year was the Swine 'Flu epidemic and a close watch was kept on developments. Advice notices and links were posted by the Team in the Parish Magazine and on Hadlow Down Online. It would seem that the threat of a major emergency has receded but the team will continue to monitor the situation. The major power cuts that affected the village in May/June of 2009 did not actually constitute an emergency under the remit of the Emergency Plan Team but did throw up some interesting and perhaps useful points regarding communications in an emergency, not least being the almost farcical EDF and Red Cross arrangements which, amongst other things left Wealden District Council unaware of any problem for nearly 48 hours. Arrangements were made for discussions between John Wood and EDF to ensure that similar problems never happened in the future. No notification has been received by the team as to the outcome of these discussions and whether they actually took place after the District/County responsibility changes.

During the severe snowfall weather earlier this year the chair decided it would be appropriate to access details and contact all those on the 'Vulnerable' list of the Emergency Plan Survey. Although no one needed help other than they were getting from their families, friends and neighbours, the positive feedback from those who received a call was most encouraging.

The monthly countywide emergency radio check continues despite the absence of WDC or ESCC leadership and is currently led by one of the village operators. It is noticed though that the lack of involvement from District and County has meant that those participating has become fewer and fewer over the last six months.

The collation of the new Village Emergency Plan Survey was completed last Spring and new copies are in all appropriate locations. All previous data has now been destroyed.

The chair will be writing again to Jim Foster of East Sussex County Council in the next few weeks to try to get more information about the future of Village Emergency Plans and hopes he can rely on the support of County and District Councillors to support the view that the importance of Emergency Plans should not be devalued.

f. Community Strategies, Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Cllr. Michael Lunn – Community Strategies – 100+ different people from the village took part in the Community Plan sessions. 24 core objectives were identified and of these 8 top objectives were chosen. At the present information is being collated from external sources in order that a draft report can then be produced.

The top 8 objectives were:

Environment and Green Space – to protect village atmosphere from excessive and inappropriate development.

Housing – to maintain historical growth rates of housing provision in Hadlow Down i.e. 1 or 2 houses per year.

Transport and Access – to ensure speed monitoring through the village and push for a 20mph outside the school during school times.

Prosperity/Employment and Economy – to protect the village pub (New Inn) as a going concern and its environs as a community asset.

Health and Social Care – encourage and develop new active village sports clubs for health and recreation in new Village Hall.

Learning/Education/Training – support local village community groups

Community Safety – to support village magazine and village website to improve local communications.

Culture/Sport/Leisure/Play – design and develop a new Village Hall which incorporates the ability for multiple uses.

Sustainable Development – eco lights have been installed in the path of the churchyard. We were waiting for WDC to make improvements to the path from the churchyard to the school, this has now been done however we are awaiting for confirmation from the Church of England that lights can also be put in this part of the path.

Environment Matters – there is concern over the amount of litter in the country lanes and we would encourage people to pick it up. Julian Michaelson-Yeates advised that he filled 28 sacks of rubbish from a ¼ mile area of rural lane. He asked that the PC have a strategy for rubbish in rural lanes. ML has through the PC questioned the number of times dog bins are being emptied and whether the charges are too high.

g. Tree Warden – Jo Dummer (former Councillor) – There has been some activity recently regarding a 250 year old oak tree in land adjoining Hut Lane which has had a TPO on it for many years. The owner of this tree has been threatening to fell it and has gone to extraordinary lengths to back his claim that it is unsafe. However, the Parish Council took up the case along with Jim Mellor and although I am not completely up-to-date I do believe it has now been saved and I must leave Helen to fill you in from here. – Clerk advised we are awaiting the outcome of the application from WDC however it looks like it will be refused.

Apart from that and as far as I know there hasn't been anything else of importance to report regarding trees with protection orders apart from Waste Wood. I, along with many other people had always been led to believe that the Wood was protected but it isn't. An application was put in place to secure the woodland some years ago but unfortunately Wealden didn't confirm this application within the necessary six month period so it elapsed. The fact that this Wood is now owned by so many people having 'plots' and have frequently been seen camping in it make it all the more necessary to protect it – that is just my view.

I have made some attempts this year to get the younger children involved with tree planting and the importance that lays behind that.

In the autumn the BBC launched a nationwide exercise to plant a tree between 12.0 – 2.0pm on a certain day. All the trees to be planted had to be registered with BBC beforehand giving type of tree and where, and you had to confirm that you had carried this out within the two hour period. Two of the children from St Mark's successfully planted a young Yew in their Smile Meadow at Waste Wood and received a certificate and congratulations from the BBC Tree Week. I took some lovely photos of the girls through the whole process which St Mark's will keep for posterity.

Also, last autumn I spent an afternoon with other children of St Mark's. They collected many acorns, beech and chestnuts and tested them all for growth. They then potted about a dozen of each which I have kept safely in my garden and I'm happy to say that hopefully, by next year a few more plantings will take place in Smile Meadow.

Whilst writing this I should mention that I shall be giving up my Tree Warden role. Because of several other commitments I have made for myself in the Village recently I really don't have the time to spare anymore. David Walker did mention he would possibly take it on at some time so until he does or until someone else comes forward if he doesn't I will continue.

9 . Chairman's Report: Another year quickly passed and here we are again, many thanks to all my fellow Councillor's and our Clerk.

The PC has come under an amount of criticism over the past year. This is a great shame because all of us Councillors volunteer for this job, all be it via an election process. We all work hard with an ever increasing workload. This is not just attending at least 2 meetings a month but a large amount of work in between times as well as attending conferences and training days. We are entitled to claim an allowance of £140 per Councillor and an addition of £230 to the Chair making a maximum of £1210. This amounts to approximately 5% of this year's precept, but we choose not to claim this, but many councils do. So if anyone would like to join us there is a vacancy.

Myself and Graham visited the East Sussex Archive Office in Lewes earlier this year searching for information on ownership of the Village Hall site. This we found out was donated to the Council in August 1950 by the Abergavenny Estate. Whilst we were there we looked at all the PC archives from it's formation in 1905 up to the early seventies and found that some things never change:

- Speeding along the Main Road was first brought up in something like 1910, a complaint about speeding steam vehicles, something we still have today. Complaints about speeding continued and in 1969 a limit of 40mph was offered by ESCC and was finally set-up in January 1972. We now finally have 30mph but still the A272 is a constant source of complaints and criticism.
- Another well documented problem which keeps coming up is who owns Hut Lane and who should pay for its upkeep, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1970, 1972, 1973 and several times since I've become a Councillor. Every time letters written, questions asked, time spent and still the same outcome nobody owns Hut Lane.
- Parking outside the New Inn blocking the footpath and obstructing the way out of Hut Lane, 1967, 1970, 1972 and many more since.
- The question over the disused fuel tanks at the New Inn raised in 1972 and several times since and still no answer.
- 1953 a complaint from the PC to the Hall Committee complaining about lack of heating in the Village Hall. This is something I know all about but with improvement last Autumn a problem somewhat solved (well almost).

Whilst on the subject of the Village Hall the PC has committed itself to build a new Community Centre on the Playing

Field site. This is an exciting project and one that will take a lot of time and commitment for all those concerned. I ask you all to fill out any questionnaires, contact committee members or any Councillor with your vision of your new Community Centre. You could even join the committee or volunteer any skills you have to help this project.

10. **ESCC and WDC Reports** - Cllr. Tony Reid congratulated the PC on the attendance at the Parish Assembly. A unique programme has been undertaken at Hadlow Down for the Community Plan. Waste is an environment issue with climate change. Waste costs a lot to be dealt with. We all need to look at the amount of energy we use and reduce it. The Chair thanked TR for the amount of effort he puts in on behalf of the Parish Council
Report received from Cllr. Ken Ogden in his absence - Apologies that I am unable to attend the Parish Assembly. I can confirm that this year has been very active and it has been a pleasure to work with the PC in order for us to together represent the residents of Hadlow Down, some items have needed more effort and consultation than others but all are important whether large or small.
One can only notice the extreme dedication to duty by all the Parish Councillors and the amount of their free time they give, all results are never perfect owing to government; guide lines of which we have little control. I look forward to us going from strength to strength in the times ahead.
11. **Questions from the floor** – Julian M-Y raised that he wants to see something done about litter. WDC are willing to provide litter pickers and bags. Some of the litter that Julian picked up was about 8 years old. He also received a lot of support from other villagers when he was picking up the litter. DW suggested that people report anyone they see dropping litter.
12. **Closure of business** – Vicky Richards gave a vote of thanks to the PC.

The meeting ended at 9.15 when those present enjoyed refreshments provided by the Council.