



**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of
Hadlow Down Parish Council**
Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00pm on Tuesday April 19th 2022
*Note – this is a draft copy to be agreed and amended
at the next Annual Assembly*

Present: Cllrs Michael Lunn (Chair), Ben Floyd, David Munday, Peter Weston and Damon Wellman.

In attendance: Cllr Phil Dixon (Wealden DC), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC), Sue Choppin and Rosie Farrance (Sussex Police), Stephen O'Connell (Sussex Safer Roads Partnership), Penny Eliot (Mayfield Charities), Annette Stow (St Mark's School), Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and 13 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7pm.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how nice it was to be able to host the Parish Assembly in person after a two year break due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The Chair welcomed our guest speakers from Sussex Police.

1. **A presentation** was given by Steve O'Connell (SO) from Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Police Community Support Officers Sue Choppin (SC) and Rosie Farrance. A number of questions and comments were raised by members of the public (MOPs), including:

- SO agreed that e-scooters were becoming more of a problem and are illegal unless in a trial zone and would be included within Operation Downsway;
- SC said they had given lots of words of advice to drivers re speeding and *SO would give an update to the PC about the number of speeding tickets that had been issued in Hadlow Down. He would also be producing some information re Speed Indicator Device data and would feed it back to the Parish Council;*
- SO said that average speed cameras are an initiative being looked at but they are expensive and would be down to the PC to provide. The issue of speeding motorbikes on the straight from Buxted into Hadlow Down, particularly on sunny Sunday afternoons, was discussed and SO said that MOPs should keep a track of these issues and report them to the Parish Clerk to pass to roads communications for them to feed into the new Speed Management Plan which would result in the issues being looked into. He urged MOPs to report all issues, including noise, anti-social driving, intimidating horses etc. to www.operationcrackdown.org so that they could be investigated and included in crash data;
- On the issue of dangerous parking SC said they had issued blue cards where parking on pavements were causing a real obstruction and dangerous parking but other than that they do not deal with parking issues as unfortunately there are not enough PCSOs to deal with them all (there are 6 PCSOs covering the whole of Wealden).

The Chair thanked SO, SC and RF for their presentation which had answered many questions from local residents.

2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Cllrs Blyfield and Lewis; Tracey Boorman, Paul James, Bob and Glenis Lake, Vicky Richards and Peter Smyth.
3. **The minutes of the 2019 Annual Assembly** were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **WDC Report** - Cllr. Phil Dixon:

The District Council is responsible for planning, housing, waste collection, licensing, environmental health, council tax collection and benefits. We also have some non-statutory responsibilities such as leisure, economic development and tourism. In addition, we have a number of assets we are responsible for including council car parks and redundant graveyards etc. We also operate the crematorium, own shops in Vicarage Field in Hailsham and have a housing company. These commercial operations generate income and help to meet the strategic aims of the Council. Some of the services, such as building control, environmental health and licensing are provided through a shared service with other authorities and some are out sourced such as waste collection and leisure. On the other hand, unlike most other authorities, we continue to own and manage council housing of which we own over 3000.

All these services are provided out of a tax which represents about 10% of your bill. The council has been prudently managed and been able to hold a good level of reserves and last year was able to freeze our portion of the council tax. This year we have had to increase by £5 a year for a Band D taxpayer, with uncertainties about income from central government and inflationary pressures. Over the past years, financial support from government has been reduced and councils are largely reliant on their own resources and council tax.

In the past, one of the most difficult service areas has been waste collection, which has improved immensely with our current contract with Biffa, who have done a very professional job even through the pandemic period and having to cope with staff absences. Missed bins are at a record low and recycling is very high.

Planning is always a contentious issue. Fortunately, we are protected in Hadlow Down from the worst excesses of over development. The parish is in the AONB, which has a high level of protection, and being a settlement with few facilities, it is not regarded as suitable for large development. As someone who is on the management board of the High Weald AONB, and serves as Vice Chairman, I am very concerned that everything we do conserves and enhances the beautiful landscape of the High Weald.

The new local plan preparation is advancing, against the background of a target for house building from government which is excessive and, in my view, unachievable. The Council have accepted the principle that development should be concentrated around existing sustainable settlements with the possibility that a new settlement might be considered. With

the uncertainty about planning reforms and possible new targets from government we are waiting for an announcement before publishing a draft plan. However, the planning officers are kept very busy assembling the evidence for the new plan and assessing sites for inclusion in the plan. We are hopeful for a lower target but also changes to the rules on the 5 year housing land supply, which will give us more control over planning applications which are being submitted, particularly in the south of the district.

The planning officers are consulting with members on a regular basis and also with the parishes through regular Parish Cluster meetings. Please email me if you have any concerns on planning matters.

If you wish to be kept informed of matters that affect your immediate area, please do subscribe to 'My Alerts' on the Home page of the Wealden website and that will keep you up to date with planning applications and other local news.

You will be aware that Wealden is making a multi million pound investments in its leisure facilities across Wealden and that includes a significant investment in the Goldsmiths leisure centre in Crowborough.

5. **ESCC Report** – Cllr. Bob Standley:

How ESCC will spend your money (net) – Adult Social Care £200.7m; Business Services/Orbis £25.3m; Governance Services £7.3m; Communities, Economy, Transport £63m; Children's Services £100.2m; Centrally held budgets £56.7m = £453.2m. Where the money comes from (net) – Council Tax £333.1m; Revenue Support Grant £3.7m; Social Care Grants £23.7m; Services Grant £5.2m; New Homes Bonus £0.8m; Business Rates £86.7m. *Figures exclude money for schools which is received from Government and passed directly to schools.*

Highways:

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- 60 carriageway improvement schemes
- 17,000 potholes filled
- Further £5.8 million allocated to highways mainly patching
- Additional £31m to improve roads and pavements 2022-27

Climate Change:

- Net carbon neutral by 2050 **latest**
- Additional £6m allocated to meet this target

Schools & Improving Skills:

- Schools White Paper published recently
- SEND green paper issued 2 weeks ago
- Despite covid held virtual careers event 1100 attended
- Only 6% 16 year olds classified as NEETS (Not in Education Employment or Training)
- Need to improve skills to attract good well paid jobs

Police and Crime Panel:

- Task to hold Police & Crime Commissioner to account
- Commissioner holds Chief Constable to account
- Panel challenges Commissioner on budget and policy

Covid:

Has put pressure on services - staff working from home. Schools still under pressure - staff off sick - limited supply teacher availability.

A MOP asked who was responsible for air quality and BS thought it fell into the remit of both Wealden DC and ESCC. Re the reduction of speed to aid improvement to air quality he added that they were trying to extend the 20mph zones and had trialled closing roads outside schools to encourage walking. Another MOP raised the issue of people having to pay to reserve a seat on buses for their children to get to 6th form college at a cost of £167 every two months, even if they didn't use the seat, being very expensive and unfair given that there was no other way for them to get to school due to it being dangerous to walk into Buxted to get the train. BS agreed that this was expensive but added that transport is very expensive and unfortunately the bus companies are only likely to increase prices.

6. **Reports from Representatives:**

(a) Mayfield Charities – Penny Eliot, Trustee:

I am Penny Eliot, one of 6 Trustees on the Mayfield Trust. The Trust is a small charity which began in 1630. Its purpose is to give financial help to those in need and living within the ancient Mayfield Parish boundary. This includes people living in Hadlow Down and also families whose children are attending St Marks. In the past, for example, we have helped pay for school uniforms, school trips, carpets for rented accommodation and personal alarms for the elderly. And over the last 12 months, we have provided financial assistance to 8 people in Hadlow Down. We do not delve deeply into peoples' affairs, but obviously we try to prioritize those with the greatest need. If you or someone you know could benefit from the Charity's help do please contact me. My details are on Hadlow Down website and in the parish magazine.

ML thanked Penny and the Mayfield Charity trustees for supplying a lifeline to those in need.

(b) St Mark's School – Annette Stowe, Head Teacher:

It has been two years since I have been able to meet and share with you what has been going on at St Mark's. And it has been a very interesting and challenging two years, not just for us but for everyone. In March 2019, we were told by the government that, due to Covid-19, we would be going into a national lockdown and all schools would be closing, in order to protect our most vulnerable and the NHS. This was something none of us were expecting or had planned for. With no guidance we were having to learn quickly and make decisions that would protect the families of St Mark's without the children falling behind academically. Teaching for most of us is about face to face interaction with children and engaging with them practically; we were now being thrown into a situation where we were needing to remote teach our children through online learning. During the time our children were in lockdown and learning remotely, we learnt as teachers, to deliver live session and use a platform called google classroom to provide daily lessons. Over the last two years, the role of schools has become even more important in keeping children safe. Safeguarding is always an integral part of our job and

this was made even more so with the use of computers for remote learning and online safety. Through all the lockdowns we remained open to our vulnerable children and Key worker's children. Although the government specified the groups of children who were allowed in school, as Head teachers and teachers we know our families and we know who else needed to be in school. On return in June 2020, although the government had said just Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 to return, we were able to make arrangements so that over 70% of the school were able to return for a few days a week. Through all of this the staff were amazing, they had to manage their own fears of catching Covid and protecting their own families whilst ensuring the children in their classes were still making progress and learning. Our parents were super stars and had the hard jobs of supporting their children with remote learning whilst also having to hold down full time jobs and work from home. And finally, our children were incredible! It was lovely to see them online and talk to them, they worked hard and showed resilience and perseverance.

Since returning to full time teaching our first aim was to enrich, excite and engage the children in their learning. After such a turbulent time, many children and families were anxious about returning to school and it was vital that they came back feeling safe, and ready to learn. With the help of our wonderful charity 'Wings to Fly' and our super 'Friends of St Mark's', they have helped organise and fund so many wonderful activities and events over the year. A few examples of these are our Tech-Rex day; an 8ft animatronic dinosaur visited the school and the children got to learn about dinosaurs and produced green screen videos of them being chased by a dinosaur. We had a local vet come and give a talk about her job and brought in a horses skull which wowed everyone. The children have had a day of playing steel pans, golf in the playground, numerous trips out and authors and poet visits. This has all been to enrich their learning and give them the opportunities they had missed out on during the peak of Covid.

We have also tried to keep our connections with the community. Having large gatherings in the church has been tricky but Father Pete has been wonderful and delivered online and outside assemblies when we have needed it. We were thrilled that we were able to have our Easter Service with all the families in St Mark's church, this year. In October we had our annual community tea, where the children showed their work. We have made several visits to Wilderness wood over the year; we have sung to the TN22 and TN22 plus clubs at Christmas and we will be utilising the playing fields for a sporting event in term 6.

I continued to work closely with other head teachers over the last 2 years and we would often meet online to support each other and discuss issues we were having in our schools around Covid. This helped us out greatly and although we all did things differently to support the individuality of our schools it was nice to have people to talk to.

St Mark's may be a small school but our role in the county and the partnership work we do has grown. I have been vice chair of the Wealden Education Improvement Partnership for the last 3 years and have worked closely with the 28 schools to provide courses and training for staff. In July last year, we were given the role of Learning Collaborative Partnership School. I believe very strongly that we can all learn from our colleagues and support each other, so I now facilitate school to school support for the 28 schools in the Wealden Education Improvement Partnership. The goal being we can create a school led support system which helps teachers and inevitable impacts of the provision and teaching the children receive.

So here we are today, 2 years on. We have grown and learnt so much as a school with amazing children, staff, parents and community supporting us along the way. As we have said in the past, we are proud to be part of this community and we continue to work together to give our children their 'Wings to Fly'. Thank you.

7. **Financial Report** - The Clerk highlighted a few points which may be of interest from the draft annual accounts that are shown at the end of these minutes:
- Income £68,838.31 Includes:
 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) £929.93
 - Grants - £3,724.62 from Chalk Cliff Trust for Play area upgrade & £7,700 from National Lottery for 'Together We Can' project to attract new volunteers to village organisations
 - Transfers from Reserves £14,715.78 (o/w £13,279.78 was from CIL for Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Burial Ground perimeter path work).
 - Expenditure £68,839.41 Includes:
 - £8,875 for Burial Ground perimeter path repair paid for from CIL
 - £4,055 for SID and installation etc. paid for from CIL
 - Transfers into Reserves includes £929.93 to CIL Earmarked Reserve (EMR); £7,700 into 'Together We Can' EMR; £3,724.62 into play area project EMR.
 - Precept for 2022/23 - £39,116
 - Due to the general rise in costs, this year there has been a small increase in the precept of 4.1% or £3.89 per year to a Council D property owner.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for her report and explained that the Council had been pleased with the transition to a new accounting software package which allowed closer scrutiny of the accounts.

8. Reports from Councillors

(a) Highways, Speed Indicator Signs, Drainage, Footpaths, Gatwick Airport – Cllr. Peter Weston:

Highways:

- SID now operational. What data does not provide is any evidence that the sign is impacting driver behaviour; anecdotally it is on some drivers but clearly not on all. What the sign will provide is evidence to support any future campaign for changes in speed limits and/or signage. A third site on the A272 just west of the School Lane junction is being investigated.
- State of roads and lanes continues to be a grave cause for concern; the patching / repair regime of ESCC is clearly not working!!!

Drainage:

- Continues to be a concern in several locations – a lot of after the event unblocking by ESCC – PC will continue to push for more permanent solutions particularly to the problems in Hastingford Lane, Five Chimneys and along the A272 in various places.

Footpaths:

- The importance of keeping these open and in good condition has been highlighted during the Covid pandemic. The PC has had some success in securing improvements, for example, to the footpath around the burial ground and to the path off the A272 down towards Spring Well Cottage. But the PC will continue to push for improvements, for example, to the bridleway through Waste Wood.
- Following further representations by the PC, the 'Kissing Gate' crossing of the A272 from the Burial Ground, and the associated road signage are being reassessed by ESCC.

Gatwick:

- Gatwick is pushing ahead with its plan to bring into regular use what used to be called 'the emergency runway' (now referred to by Gatwick as 'the standby runway'). The opposition fronted by such organisations as GACC and CAGNE are focusing on pollution, noise and the pressures on local infrastructure. I have pushed for the impact of contrails to be added to this long list.

(b) Hadlow Down Village Hall and Community Centre – Cllr. Michael Lunn presented on behalf of Cllr. Rachel Lewis:

Village Hall:

- The Village hall re-opened in May 2021 after being closed due to Covid 19 for most of the previous year.
- New lighting has been installed inside and outside the Hall.
- Also in 2021 new Trustees joined the committee and now five Trustees are running the Charity alongside a paid part-time Manager and a volunteer book keeper.
- Electricity costs have been a constant worry throughout the year, with new energy bills arriving due to the end of the fixed contract in October 21 just when energy prices increased. This increase coincided with the fact that hirers were having to leave windows open due to COVID restrictions AND the usage was higher than expected as a result of the meters being removed in 2019. As a result of all of these issues, the Committee had no choice but to increase the rental charges from 1st January but are committed to monitoring the electricity costs on a monthly basis to ensure that the costs are kept under control.
- The Hall has been re-decorated and once again the bookings are now back to the pre-Covid levels.
- Village Hall Roof – the current roof is made up of low-grade asbestos sheets, has begun to split lengthways and if there were high winds, is at high risk of being lifted and blown off. Provisional quotes for the roof replacement which were in the region of £40K.
- An independent structural surveyor is being engaged to conduct a survey of the whole building (including the roof). Once the independent structural survey had been received, a meeting would be arranged between the PC and Village Hall Committee (VHC) and then a further joint meeting between the PC, VHC and New Community Centre to discuss how to progress due to the issues of the relative short-term life of the existing village hall versus the building of the new community centre. Obviously it is important to keep some kind of facility for the village in the short term whilst the new Village Hall is being built.

Cllr. Michael Lunn presented on behalf of Cllr. Rachel Lewis:

Community Centre (HDCC):

Due to the restrictions of Covid this report is relates to activity during the last five months of 2021. With the easing of restrictions the Committee met three times and during those five months achieved the following:-

- The distribution of the New Village Hall News to every household in the parish to re-establish awareness of the project amongst parishioners, to provide an up-to-date appraisal of the stage that had been reached, to set out some actions to be achieved and to showcase other voluntary village organisations. Unfortunately, the aim to attract new volunteers was not realised.
- On 12 October HMRC granted them Gift Aid meaning that we will be able to claim 25% from HMRC for every £1 donated providing that the donor is a tax payer.
- Our Lottery membership has continued to increase and numbers sold totals 1800 providing an annual income of £2160. Thank you for your continued support of the HDCC.
- At the end of January 2022, we received a very detailed update from Mike Barber, our architect and some key points of that letter were:
- He wrote: *'We have had another session on the scheme since we met before Christmas and we need one more to be in a position to issue the completed drawings which will be sufficient to enable a cost plan and provisional tenders to be prepared. As you know we have not instructed structural engineers at this point in order to avoid costs but we have made some detailed assumptions about the structure in order to aid the pricing process. We would also be in a position to submit the Building Regulations application at this point if there is a will to do so or a requirement of any funding bid. At the same time we have produced most of the information about the planning conditions and can start to clear these off, although in some cases a bit of specialist input will be needed from consultants. In terms of the planning climate, there is no reason to think that Wealden would be anything other than helpful in respect of the conditions or even an application to renew the permission in order to provide more time for fund raising. Therefore in summary we could have the project ready for commencement by the beginning of May 2022.'*

In terms of the construction climate, you will no doubt be aware that the combination of COVID, Brexit and global supply chain issues have pushed up construction costs across the board. Since mid-2020, we have seen construction costs in the south-east rise by circa 28% and no doubt the traditional round of material price increases in the spring will see this get worse. Contractors have been doing all they can to mitigate the labour rates but in reality any scheme

which might have been a £1.5-1.7m project is likely to be at least £1.9-2.1m. I have chatted to your QS about costs and it might be worthwhile undertaking a basic cost plan process possibly backed up by asking one or two contractors'.

- The services of a Mechanical and Electrical Engineering consultant have been offered free of charge and he will be responsible for addressing such issues as solar energy panels, heating, lighting, water and security. This work can begin in May.
- Business Plan - Its revision and completion is a first priority; with input from both the QS and the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering consultant, we will be able to produce with accuracy the construction costs and expenditure in terms of heating, lighting and water.
- Marketing Plan – this will include a pricing structure and promotion of the community centre within and outside the parish.
- Fund Raising Plan -To review potential funders as there is evidence that the pandemic has led to some agencies concentrating more on the alleviation of the effects of Covid. We will be guided by advice from a fund-raising consultant to identify and secure long term relationships with major donors ensuring significant levels of funding.
- The very successful Race Night took place on Sat 2 April.

(c) Planning, Emergency Plan – Cllr. David Munday:

Planning:

The Parish Council considers all local planning applications, on average perhaps two or three a month, and agrees the advice it sends to Wealden District Council at its meetings. Applications are listed in the meeting agendas and advertised on the website, for public consideration, and councillors have undertaken site visits as needed.

District councils are required to publish local plans, setting out how the demands for housing agreed at national level are to be applied locally over the next 10-15 years. The Planning Inspectorate however rejected Wealden's plan in 2019, on the basis that Wealden had put too great an emphasis on protecting the environment and they had failed to assist nearby authorities who were more constrained in achieving their unmet housing needs. Until a new plan is adopted, all planning applications will be evaluated on the presumption in favour of sustainable development as defined by the National Planning Policy. This often works in favour of development.

Consultations are well under way on a new local plan, and the Parish Council has given its comments and has representatives on the local "Parish Planning Cluster" and other bodies. However, Wealden's initial aim to publish the final draft for submission after further local consultation "in spring 2022" is being pushed to summer 2022.

Emergency Plan:

The Parish Council produced a new Emergency Plan in May 2021 with annual updates. Emergencies come in all shapes and sizes and are unpredictable. The Plan should therefore be simple for a small village, catering for times when the normal emergency services cannot act immediately, e.g. heavy snow, or widespread loss of power or water. The aim is organise volunteers so that villagers can assess relevant needs and contact local people with appropriate skills and equipment. A recent example has been the village volunteers helping with some residents' COVID needs.

(d) Playing Field – Cllr. Ben Floyd:

As with all the village organizations the last few years have not been good for fundraising. Over the last year the playing field committee (PFC) has managed to secure a couple of much needed COVID grants from Wealden District Council. With the relaxation of the COVID restrictions the PFC had a stall at Tinkers Park Steam Rally, this was very successful and again brought in some much needed funds. Later on in the year the bonfire night held at the playing field was well attended and a record donation was received from the villages and friends who attended. All these much needed funds have been put to good use and the PFC have purchased some new machinery to keep up with the ongoing maintenance. A much needed new mower was one item purchased for cutting the cricket wicket. Another purchase was a container, this was needed for housing the cricket roller and the new mower along with the necessary ancillaries needed to maintain the playing field. With some of the machinery now in the container there is more space in the undercrofts. Some of this space is now being used to store football and cricket equipment. The last football season has seen the pitch being used nearly on a weekly basis and all of the youngsters thoroughly enjoying themselves. As the cricket season has now started this means that the playing field will be continuously used throughout the year.

Nigel Harrison has stepped down as the chair of the PFC and I would like to thank him and Caz for all their hard work and enthusiasm over the years and to wish them all the best in their move to Dorset. Fiona Shafer has stepped into the Chairman's position for the second time and I sure she will carry on with the same drive and enthusiasm where Nigel left off. Hopefully this year will see an extension to the play area, with ground works being done and the installation of some new play equipment.

On a final note, if there are any new villagers or old villagers who would wish to give up a few hours of their spare time to help volunteer at the playing field, please get in contact with myself or directly with the Playing Field Committee.

(e) Burial Ground – Cllr. Damon Wellman presented on behalf of Cllr Sally Blyfield:

Burial Ground:

As reported last year the path around the perimeter of the burial ground had become uneven and slippery, a decision was made by the PC to obtain quotes to carry out the work to replace the pathways and decayed edging. The work has now been completed and a new pathway has been laid along with new edging stones around the perimeter of the burial ground. In order that the edging and pathway could be laid correctly the yew tree to the rear of the burial ground by the gate to the A272 had to be removed.

The area to the rear of the burial ground owned by the PC for burial ground extension had become very overgrown, it was agreed that this area should be cleared with the perimeter trees being left; once the boundary was clarified Ben Floyd arranged for a volunteer working group to clear the area of overgrown trees and shrubs.

The subject of litter has come up many times in the last year, volunteers and members of the PC spent time tidying up the burial ground some time ago, removing dead wreaths and discarded plant holders from around the headstones, unfortunately litter in the burial ground remains a problem, signs have been put on the gates to remind people to take their litter home with them but we have very recently received correspondence from a resident regarding discarded flower wrappers in the hedges at the entrance to the burial ground, we can only continue to remind people and spend time ourselves removing rubbish and litter.

Trees:

There is very little to report with regards to trees, some calls have been received requesting permission to remove trees, as previously stated, the PC cannot grant permission for the felling of trees, we are able to provide advice on how to obtain permission from Wealden should the landowner believe the tree maybe subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

9. **Chairman's Report**

It is great to see you all here. I am delighted that this year we are able to hold a physical Parish Assembly, after two years of absence due to the pandemic! I would like to thank everyone who has presented tonight, and I hope you can see the breadth and depth of the activity of the Parish over the last 12 months. I took over as Chairman of the Parish Council in October after Julian Michaelson-Yeates stood down and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him, on behalf of the Parish Council, for all the wonderful work he did not only as a Chairman but for his many years as a Councillor. He is a tough act to follow. I am also delighted to welcome back Damon Wellman onto the Council which means we are now up to strength in numbers which is brilliant news as it ensures that the Parish Council can continue to work on behalf of the village independently.

I am extremely grateful to all of the Parish Councillors, most of whom have their own work commitments but whom strive to do their best for the village in which they live. We are all volunteers and none of us take allowances to act on behalf of the Parish. The Parish Council is very much about team work building on the strengths of our skills and doing what is best for the whole Parish. So thank you to my colleagues as you have made my job so much easier. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank all the different village organisations, co-ordinators, volunteers and parishioners for all the ways that they contribute to keeping the Parish and village a thriving place to live, even during pandemics! The need for new volunteers to join the various organisations within the village has never been greater.

I would like to thank our Clerk, Samantha Weatherill, who has assisted me and the Parish Council in running and managing the council and ensuring all the procedures and legal requirements are met and she has managed the budget and precept with utmost care and attention. Samantha is a true asset of the Parish Council and therefore I am pleased to congratulate her as she passed her exams and obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration which is fantastic news for both her and the Parish Council, so well done.

Finally, I would like to thank you, without your support we could not achieve what we do. I have been a long supporter that Hadlow Down maintains its Parish Council and a direct voice for the local community. Hadlow Down is lucky to have such a strong sense of community and it's been a pleasure to act as the Parish Chair.

10. **Questions from the floor** – none.

11. **Closure of business** – A MOP thanked the PC and Clerk for all their work for the benefit of the village, on behalf of the public.

The meeting closed at 8:57 pm.

HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL - Draft Final Accounts 2021-2022

INCOME	2020-21		2021-22	
Balance brought forward	£4,958.34		£4,374.11	
Precept	£37,234.00		£37,234.00	
Burial ground	£690.00		£775.00	
VAT reclaimed and received	£518.18		£1,807.68	
Interest from Bank Account	£10.28		£3.44	
ESCC contribution for fingerposts/footpaths costs	£732.50		£1,330.00	
Rent for playing field	£0.25		£0.25	
UK Power Networks playing field rent	£3.61		£3.61	
Grants	£0.00		£11,424.62	
Transfer from reserves	£3,150.26		£14,715.78	
Community Infrastructure Levy	£15,935.39		£929.93	
Insurance pay out for Noticeboard			£614.00	
Total	£63,232.81	£63,232.81	£73,212.42	£73,212.42
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk's salary	£19,083.91		£18,078.31	
Clerk's training	£745.00		£135.00	
Administration	£1,545.11		£1,341.49	
PC insurance	£369.90		£730.87	
Subscriptions	£518.97		£627.19	
Grants	£3,150.00		£2,920.00	
Hire of hall	£64.00		£247.50	
Audit	£335.00		£552.00	
Maintenance of Burial Ground	£870.00		£9,945.00	
Tree Survey/Work	£750.00		£0.00	
Litter & dog bin emptying	£1,500.00		£1,545.00	
Fingerpost maintenance	£610.00		£2,800.00	
Chairmen's expenses	£0.00		£0.00	
Councillor's training	£90.00		£130.00	
Chair and Councillor's allowance	£0.00		£0.00	
Election expenses	£0.00		£0.00	
Legal/Professional Fees	£961.50		£0.00	
Website/IT	£1,301.36		£621.00	
Maintenance of play area & inspection	£2,925.74		£1,390.70	
Entrance to playing field Loan payment	£1,134.14		£1,134.14	
Telephone box	£25.00		£0.00	
Defibrillators	£0.00		£275.20	
Contingencies incl.	£1,881.00		£5,174.78	
Highways/Footpaths/Noticeboards	£19,190.39		£17,424.99	
Transfer into reserves	£1,807.68		£3,766.24	
VAT paid	£58,858.70		£68,839.41	
Total		<u>£58,858.70</u>		<u>£68,839.41</u>
Balance at 31st March				
Plus cheques drawn but not presented		£4,374.11		£4,373.01
Current account balance at 31st March		£0.00		£0.00
(Balance is c/f figure for following year)		£4,374.11		£4,373.01
Earmarked reserves:		<u>Movement</u>		
Brought forward	£1,400.00		£1,400.00	
Burial Ground Landscaping	£1,662.00		£1,662.00	
Property Maintenance	£5,944.00		£5,944.00	
New Village Hall Fund	£2,639.00		£2,639.00	
Road Safety Improvements/Highways	£432.00	£500.00	£932.00	
Election Fund	£2,705.00	-£1,330.00	£1,375.00	
Finger post costs	£394.00	£106.00	£500.00	
IT	£6,162.90		£6,162.90	
Community Plan	£4,692.00		£4,692.00	

Play equipment	£673.00	£225.00	£898.00	
Pensions	£300.00	£200.00	£500.00	
Tree Work	£15,044.29	-£13,279.78	£1,764.51	
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 2020	£0.00	£929.93	£929.93	
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 2021	£0.00	£7,700.00	£7,700.00	
`Together We Can' Project Grant	£0.00	£3,724.62	£3,724.62	
Chalk Cliff Play area Project Grant	£42,048.19	-£1,224.23	£40,823.96	
Total earmarked reserves:				£40,823.96
Unearmarked reserves	£12,321.35	£3,963.71	£16,285.06	£16,285.06
Total reserves & Active Saver balance as at 31st March/	<u>£54,369.54</u>	<u>£2,739.48</u>	<u>£57,109.02</u>	<u>£57,109.02</u>
Carried forward				

Notes to accompany 2021/22 figures

1. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - this is the Parish Council's portion of the CIL charged by Wealden DC on some planning applications. These are one off payments and are set aside for infrastructure projects only. In 2021 £13,279.78 was spent from the CIL to cover the purchase, installation and associated costs of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) and the remainder was spent on improvements to the burial ground - resurfacing the perimeter path and the removal of trees to facilitate this.

2. We received £1,330 from ESCC Highways as their 50% contribution to the work undertaken on fingerposts in 2020 - work on these had been delayed due to issues caused by the pandemic.

3. Grants were made to ENGage, Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance, Wealden CAB, Parish Magazine and the Playing Field Committee.

4. Transfers into reserves were for: CIL received in 2021 £929.93; £7,700 from National Lottery for `Together We Can' project to hold event/s to encourage people to volunteer their time at the many organisations within the village; £3,724.62 from Chalk Cliff Trust to make improvements to play area; £225 to Pension EMR; £3,930 to Unallocated Reserves which was agreed when setting 2021/22 precept to replenish various costs incurred during 2020/21 for IT (new laptop, Office 365 & IT Support); new matting at play area and Village Hall planning application and associated costs; £106 to Property Maintenance EMR to replenish shortfall from replacement Noticeboard insurance claim; £106 to IT to bring up EMR to £500; £200 to Tree Work EMR and £500 to Election Expenses EMR.

5. Transfers from reserves were to cover: £106 from Property Maintenance which was the cost of the replacement Noticeboard on the main road which was damaged in a storm which the insurance company paid for minus an excess charge (although this was subsequently replenished); £1,330 for fingerpost work budgeted for in previous budget year but not invoiced until 2021/22 budget year; £13,279.78 from CIL for SID and Burial Ground work as detailed in note (1) above.

6. Councillors continue to not claim the allowance to which they are entitled.

Notes on Precept

The Parish Council tries to keep the precept as low as they possibly can and was able to keep the precept the same as the previous year for 2021/22. However, due to the general rise in costs, there has been a small increase to the precept this year, resulting in a 4.1% increase or £3.89 per year to a Council Band D property owner.