

Catsfield Annual Parish Assembly 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2017 in The Village Hall

Present: 39 people were present including: -		Apologies:
Cllr. John Overall (Chair)	Mrs. Sally Clarke (Catsfield CEP School)	Mr. Mike Cooper
Cllr. Chris Thomas (Vice-Chair)	Mrs. Ann Davey (Catsfield W.I. and Village Hall)	Mrs Rosemary Cooper
Cllr. Julian Goodliffe	Mr. Mike Davey (Catsfield Cricket and Football)	Mrs. Jill Woods
Cllr. David Scott	Mrs. Wendy Goodliffe (Catsfield Horticultural Society)	Mr David Seabright
Cllr. Martin Holgate	Mrs. Janet Woolf (Catsfield Social Club)	Mr. Martin Gurr
Mrs. Carol Hodgson (The Clerk & RFO)	Mrs. Poppy Davies (Catsfield Pre-School)	Mrs. Thora Webber
Cllr. Kathryn Field (East Sussex CC)	Fr. Michael Brydon (St Laurence Church)	Mr. David Bodey
Cllr. Gary Curtis (Rother DC)	Mrs. Pauline Putland (History Group)	
Mr. Keith Robertson (Catsfield Speed Watch and Catsfield Amateur Dramatics)		
Mr. Scott Lavocah (Catsfield Triangle Association and Catsfield Stoolball Club)		

Agenda Item	
1	<p>To welcome everyone and receive any apologies for absence.</p> <p>Cllr. Overall welcomed everyone to the Catsfield Annual Parish Assembly. Apologies were received from Mr. Mike Cooper (Catsfield Village Hall), Mrs. Rosemary Cooper, Mrs. Jill Woods (Catsfield Village Voice), Mr. David Seabright, Mr. Martin Gurr, Mrs. Thora Webber and Mr. David Bodey</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April 2016</p> <p>The minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 13th April 2016 had been agreed by the Councillors and signed at the Parish Council meeting in May 2016.</p>
3	<p>To discuss any matters arising from these minutes</p> <p>Cllr. Overall asked for any comments from last year's Annual Parish Assembly. There were no matters raised.</p>
4	<p>Report of the Catsfield Parish Council Chairman: Cllr. John Overall</p> <p>We started the year with five Councillors Julian Goodliffe, Martin Holgate, John Overall, David Scott, Chris Thomas with two vacant positions. We have advertised and spoken to people but have been unsuccessful in recruiting anyone. We need at least three present to be quorate (able to carry on our Council Business) and I'm pleased to say that the councillors we had are hardworking and we get our business done. However we would welcome new members and the requirements are: 1) A British, commonwealth or ED citizen, 2) 18 years or older, 3) For the whole 12 months before you must be an elector of the Parish and either occupied or owned/rented premises in the Parish or resided within 3 miles of the boundary of the Parish, or had your principle or only place of work in that area.</p> <p>We met once a month over the past year usually on the first Wednesday with extra planning meetings if we anticipated a large public attendance. Our time management has improved and we rarely burn the midnight oil these days!</p> <p>Despite the other Council tax bodies all raising their demands this year we attempted to keep our precept at the same level. This was £63.06 per annum last year but after Rother's complicated calculation based on a notional Band D sum this year is £64.02 for a band D property.</p> <p>We have made progress with our efforts to make the road by the school a safer environment as well as the rest of Church Road. We are grateful to Councillor Scott for all his hard work in progressing this project and making sure that we had done all the consultation necessary before it came to the East Sussex Cabinet. Our hope is that the 30mph limit will be back beyond the Church and that there will be a build out at the School crossing as well as new road markings. None of this will be cheap but we have our funds as well as East Sussex Funds and funds from the School and the Catsfield Boat Race, so this is a real community effort.</p> <p>I am pleased to say that Keith Robertson has taken charge of the Community Speed watch team and has several trained volunteers who monitor the speeds through the village especially by the Zebra crossing. Traffic calming through the village is likely to be our next project although we will need to keep in mind the possible housing development behind the White Hart where the developers will be asked to assist with traffic calming.</p> <p>On the Law and order front we never see any Police presence at our Parish Council meetings.</p> <p>The sites for new houses in the village are the same as 6 years ago. The Skinners Lane site has been given planning permission for 9 houses (4 x 3 bed semis, 4 x 2 bed terraced and 1 x 4 bed detached. The White Hart Site is still for 35 dwellings, but no plans yet although both these sites have appeared in a Rother District 'Consultation' which also extend the village envelope to include the sites.</p> <p>We keep an eye on what is happening around us which includes the new Sidley bypass road as well as an old friend opposite the Christmas tree farm "Gladwish" which still seems to be surviving on the internet.</p> <p>We have improved the area outside the gate at the playing field. We have sought and received planning permission to extend the storage shed to provide more room. We will also be providing some benches for the front of the</p>

pavilion and some safety rails above. We have planning- permission for a shelter close to the children's playground. However we looked at a request to alter the servery at the pavilion we obtained estimates but decided that it would be too expensive for mainly one day a year at the village fete.

We have not had many planning applications this year as already noted Skinners Lane was given permission but we did oppose the construction of a new barn just off the dangerous bends in Church Road near Henley Down. It would have involved about 600 big lorry movements bringing in soil and hard core to raise the ground level. It did not get permission.

I have mentioned before in my Annual reports that some things take the Parish Council a time to do. Last year we all celebrated the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. There was once a mighty Oak which legend hints that Harold may have sheltered under. It had to be removed as it was dangerous and in 1966 a new Oak was planted to commemorate the 900th anniversary. This was done by the Parish Council with all the Children from the school present. It was then forgotten until Father Michael did some research to see if and where the Oak was. It is still there by the steps up to the Church and we have agreed to finally put a plaque by it. We continue to publish the Catsfield Flyer and deliver it throughout the Parish. Our website is now full of information including old copies of the minutes

Both Kathryn Field, our East Sussex Councillor and Gary Curtis our Rother District Councillor regularly attend and bring a District and County Perspective to our meetings. Kathryn has been our East Sussex Councillor ever since I have lived here and she always is willing to stand up for Cats field and get us answers from County Hall. It is Gary's first year with us and he also has been very active on our behalf. Our thanks are also due to the Village Hall management committee for the work they do on in running our fine Village Hall.

I thank all the other Councillors for the work they do for the good of our Parish.

Finally, I would also like to thank our Clerk Mrs Carol Hodgson for her input and her financial expertise, she continues to serve this Parish very well.

5 Reports from the groups and societies of Catsfield

• Catsfield CEP School

Mrs. Sally Clarke – Headteacher - reported: We are very proud that we have been able to build on the successes of last year, for the fourth-year county have confirmed our Ofsted status to be Outstanding. We have developed the exciting roles of a National Support School supporting many schools throughout East Sussex and Kent. We have continued to 'Grow our own Leaders' through training, extending their experience and succession planning for the future; Mr Elms became Headteacher of Stonegate in September 2016 and Mrs Fernandes is now Catsfield CE School's Deputy Headteacher. All our staff coach and mentor less experienced staff across the county. I have continued to work as a National Leader of Education advising several schools in East Sussex. Very sadly, I will retire in August. I have been lucky enough to have had the best job in the world and seen a whole cohort through the school. We have been very pleased to have appointed a new Headteacher, Miss Caroline Garland, Deputy Headteacher of Polegate, who will take over in September 2017.

The Wider Community We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Parish Council on the Road Safety Project. Together with the PTA and a generous £1,000 from Catsfield Boat Race, the children have raised £4,000 towards this project. We look forward to getting the all clear from the Highways Department, safer roads and a reduction of speed throughout the village.

The children understand how fortunate they are and are always thinking of how they can help others. This year they have chosen three charities very close to the hearts of the children of Catsfield: The Air Ambulance, Out of the Blue and The World Wide Tribe [Refugees]. So far, this year we have raised £700. Working together to help others is part of our Christian ethos and underpins all we do at school. We believe that our children are extremely well prepared and make excellent future citizens; they know they can help make a difference. We truly live our vision 'Achieve Excellence - Inspire Dreams'.

We continue to deliver the curriculum in many different ways. Quality first teaching and learning are key to our success. The children take on a role in their own development and together we have tweaked our Response Feedback and Marking system - it is now famous throughout the county and beyond! The children learn in so many different ways and are motivated and engaged, building up confidence and self-belief so that they are empowered to learn and enjoy in speaking in public Our children perform in many outside venues such as The Hastings Festival and the De La Warr Pavilion. Once again, we have several children Singing and performing in professional productions including Glyndebourne Operas, Musicals and Drama productions. Fantastic!

• Catsfield Triangle Association

Mr. Scott Lavocah reported: The first Catsfield Boat Race was held last September. It was a phenomenal success and exceed my and the Committees expectations. 16 boats turned out to race with lots of people supporting along the roadside during the 2hour road closure which was followed by activities up at the Recreation Ground. This was the first event of this kind in the Village and the CTA is planning to put it on again this year at the slightly earlier date of 4th June to take advantage of the weather and lighter evenings. The road closure has been confirmed from 11am to

2pm and this will again be followed by activities from 2-6pm at the Recreation Ground - to include live bands and various other activities. Last year the CTA's nominated charities were St Michael's Hospice and Catsfield CEP School (for funding towards the traffic calming project) each receiving £1,000. This year the CTA's pre-chosen charities are Catsfield Pre-School, Out of the Blue and Dragonflies. All we need now is for Boats to enter the Race. We have had lots of interest and we are expecting this year to be bigger and better, so please start registering your teams. Mike O'Farrell is busy promoting the event through social media – website, Twitter, Facebook etc. Scott invited those attending to look at the CTA's display and sign-up for the event either entering a boat or volunteering to help on the day. The CTA will be notifying those residents living on 'The Triangle' of the road closure and ask if cars can be moved to prevent any accidents etc. Scott thanked those who supported the event last year. The CTA Committee - made up to Scott, Mike O'Farrell, Damian Richard, Carol Hodgson and Jen Barnes – would appreciate any support with this year's event.

- **Catsfield Stoolball Club**

Mr. Scott Lavocah reported: The Ladies Stoolball team is sadly declining. The Mixed Team is taking-off and is lucky that Catsfield has a core of young people coming forward, which other villages do not seem to have. This Sussex game is played at Catsfield School and Claverham. The Mixed Team retained the Crowhurst Tournament last year but not the other two. If anyone is interested in playing Stoolball, please let Scott or a member of the Stoolball team know.

- **Catsfield Speed Watch**

Mr. Keith Robertson reported: A year ago at the last Annual Parish Assembly there was a discussion on the speed of traffic through the village. After foolishly putting my hand-up to volunteer I am now the Speed Watch Coordinator for Catsfield. Speed Watch has changed somewhat in the last year in that we now work in conjunction with the Police. We can record the speed of vehicles using radar and report people who travel over the speed limit to the Police who then issue warnings. We started with a small team of about 6 in January 2017 and now have a team of 12 with around 7 regulars. The rest attend when they can. Since January there have been 25 Speed watch sessions of around an hour. So far we have recorded or effectively caught 388 vehicles travelling at 37mph or over, the fastest being 55mph. There are those travelling faster during the night but we can only work in daylight hours. As a result, the Police have sent out 281 warning letters since January. Around 100 that were recorded didn't get letters as the precise details were not written down. We have to record the registration number, the speed, make and colour of the vehicle. If any of that is wrong you cannot take it any further. Speed watch is a national initiative and we as a village are linked with other town and villages. If someone is caught speeding in any area operating speed watch they are issued a warning letter and if caught again within any Speed Watch operating location will be issued a 2nd warning letter. After that the Police will take further action. Over the last year nationally 64,000 offenders were recorded through the Speed Watch system. The profile of a speeding motorist was not as expected. It is mostly people who just don't understand why they should not be driving so fast. Speed Watch is not the Police but they work in conjunction with the Police to educate motorists that they should not be travelling so fast. If the warnings are ignored it will end in them being prosecuted. What is Speed Watch? Community Speed Watch is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow. The equipment used is certified by the Police and we have to operate at sites that are approved by the Police of which there are 3 in Catsfield. To be able to Speed Watch you must have appropriate training and act in a certain way. There is an audit trail of who we are and what training we have had, where we stand and what time of day it was. This is all recorded via an online database. All the details that are recorded are DVI checked before going off to the Police. You can record people speeding above 35mph in a 30mph limit but that would be a huge amount and we tend to record those doing 37/38mph and above. If they are caught we write down the details of their car licence number, make, model, colour and speed they are travelling. If all the information is correct the data transmits off to the Police and they issue warnings. The 1st letter advises they have been caught and warned. The 2nd letter is a final warning saying if you do it again you will be contacted by the Traffic Department to come and see you. Those that come by at 55 / 60mph, we only have a couple of seconds to capture their information and we missed about 100 out of all those we recorded. The Parish Council has agreed to fund a Headcam which can be used for recording what happens and played back to obtain more accurate details of the high speeders. 281 letters have been sent out of 388 cars that have been recorded. There are very few second letters which could mean that we are catching different groups of people or that they are actually understanding not to do it again. So is it working? This is a difficult question to answer. It is effective when Speed Watch is operating but people do speed-up on other times. Catsfield is now logged on TomTom as a Speed Camera site. As more data is recorded this will give us more leverage to go back to the Police for more support as a speeding hotspot. Between 17th – 23rd April there is a European wide initiative where the Police have said they will go out to these hotspots. We have not been active this week as we could not

access the Speed Gun. Things are developing and as it is more official information being gathered and properly audited, it has more weight to it. We have more chance now for some help. The key is the more people we have on the team the better it will work. Currently we are only managing to get out at weekends and only have 7 active people who can commit to regular sessions. If we had 20 people we could have 10 teams of 2 that would allow us to be active almost every day at a site. Some people are travelling a lot through the village each day not just as a one-off, backwards and forwards, and if they know that at some point somebody will be out there almost every day they will slow down more. What we need is more volunteers. To volunteer you go online to the Community Speed Watch website and take a very simple half hour test. Your name then pops up on the Catsfield Speed Watch list and then Keith will contact you to join the team. It is loads of fun out on the road recording speeding traffic and you get to meet other people from the Village. All that is left to say is thankyou to all those 12 people who have been getting-up at 8am on a Sunday morning and on other days. We have had a good start and will continue on this year, getting more people to make it really work. The more data we get the more help we can get. Further information is available from Keith.

- **Catsfield Amateur Dramatics Society**

Mr. Keith Robertson reported: We run a Panto each year and had a fantastic time last year doing Dracula with 5 new people. Our next performance is in December and we will start thinking about this in August. Anyone who wishes to join - it is excellent fun. The whole process of doing the rehearsals is just as much fun as doing the shows. You don't have to be particularly good, just enthusiastic. There are things you can do on the stage, or behind the scenes or technical stuff. There is a short video clip on CADS Facebook page which shows 'behind the scenes'. If anyone wishes to join just come along or give Keith a call.

- **History Group**

Mrs. Pauline Putland reported: The History Group is currently hard at work researching, collecting and collating all the information they can for an exhibition centring on Thomas Brassey – the Railway Engineer who lived between 1805 and 1870 – in his connection with this village. He actually built 1/3rd of the British Railway lines in this country including some bridges. At one time he employed over 80,000 men throughout the world. As well as serving many of the worlds railways which provided work for thousands, in 1865 he commissioned the building of Normanhurst which provided much work for local villagers. We had previously hoped to run the exhibition at the end of this year but because of the vast quantity of interesting information we are continually discovering we have decided to revise our date and present our exhibition to you in the Spring of next year.

- **Catsfield Horticultural Society**

Mrs. Wendy Goodliffe reported: Just before I took over as Chair we had a very successful Fete and Flower Show up at the Recreation Ground last August. It was successful because we had more entries than the previous year to the Flower Show which is against the national trend and we also raised more funds and that has ended up in an increased profit of nearly £800. The profit all goes to local groups and there were 7 groups in the Village that had donations of £250 each. This wouldn't have been possible if we didn't have all the volunteers that help run the day. The Committee does an awful lot of work behind the scenes and all the people on the day running stalls, helping to collect bottles and bric-a-brac etc. This would not be possible without all their support. If anyone does want to volunteer for our next Summer Fete which is on Saturday 5th August then please see Wendy.

We had a very colourful Spring Show earlier this month and we tied in with School who did some artwork. They usually have an art class but this year they tied it in with doing some posters for road safety. The Parish Council is going to have a look at these and pick out ones which are going to be suitable for blowing-up and we hope to put them as reminders around the village as well.

The next event that's scheduled, and I have some flyers at the back with our photos, is a presentation evening by one of the gardeners at Great Dixter. That will be on Thursday 11th May here in the Village Hall. We hope to follow that up with a visit to Great Dixter later in the summer. We are also holding in June a Quiz Night to raise funds to help towards the cost of running the Fete because we have overheads such as hiring the Marquee where the Flower Show goes. So if we can raise funds, we can ensure that the money we actually take on the day of the Fete only goes towards the charities rather than covering the overheads. The Quiz Night on Saturday 10th June.

- **St Laurence Church**

Father Michael Brydon – Rector – reported: If you have the time this week it is still well worth going to the Church to see all the beautiful flower arrangements from Easter up there. Easter is the most important festival of the year for the Church but there are plenty of other important things to celebrate over the past year too. We were really thrilled just before Christmas that we relaunched our Junior Choir who sang to a packed Church on Christmas Eve at the Crib Service and then again with a beautiful rendition of traditional mark on Sunday Carol, back in March they were singing again and this Sunday at 10am. Really enjoy the relationship with the Village School. It's always a pleasure to host their services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. I enjoy very much being a regular visitor on Wednesday afternoons. The School came up one Sunday last year to tell us all about their learning theme of farming. We have also instituted a St Laurence Prize at the school to go to a child who has made a contribution to

the life of the school which is neither sporting nor academic. We've marked lots of special occasions in the past year. We had break choral evensong to mark the 90th Birthday of her Majesty the Queen. We pulled the stops out on St Laurence's day, a service in the morning and evening reception at the Rectory. There were a lot of social events, such as the Burns Night Supper, the Last Night of the Proms, which are great social events and also raise much needed funds. We are undertaking considerable work to the roof, some of the stone work and maintaining the stain glass windows to keep them in good order. We are very lucky to have volunteers who clean the building and often help out cutting the hedges around the Churchyard and the Cemetery. It does remain something of a challenge for us raising £45,000 each year just to standstill as well as trying to raise money for the building works but we do still try to make a point of raising money for local and international charities. Over the past year we have supported for instance St Michaels Hospice and Embrace the Middle Eastern Refugees.

- **Catsfield Village Hall**

Mrs. Ann Davey reported: You will have noticed last summer that the front of the Hall had to undergo some major renovations work, which cost us £5,138. None of which unfortunately the insurance company are prepared to underwrite. Unfortunately we also had to replace the cooker at short notice, however because the hall is run by volunteers and the expenses are kept to a minimum our finances were able to cope. The Snooker continues to run with a small profit and this year we have replaced the carpet around the table. We received a £1,000 legacy from past Chairman Roger Oakhill, which was gratefully received. We have plans this year to modernise the lighting by installing LED lights. We need to sort out the audio / visual technology and in the summer this floor will be professionally cleaned and polished. Our insurance premium has gone up considerably because of a revaluation of building costs. Oil has been very expensive this year but our Treasurer Jill Jarrett – now Jill Woods has constantly monitored our standing. We transferred the sum of £900 from the hugely successful 100 Club and I extend our thanks to the Committee and Victoria Crawshaw for running this. Thanks also to Julian Goodliffe for organising the building repairs, contractors etc. To Jane for housekeeping responsibilities. Poppy Davies who helps to straighten all practical matters, To Elaine Wilkinson for making the garden so attractive, To Carol for lots of things, To Jim and Sarah Campbell for taking bookings and to our Chairman Mike Cooper for just about everything. We gratefully value all our bookings and try to keep hiring charges affordable. We think we are competitively priced amongst our neighbouring halls and of course having a car park is a great asset to us, but we do hope progress will be made with the lighting scheme in the car park (note to Julian).

Cllr. Overall announced the 100 Club.

Jane Overall took the lead in Victoria Crawshaw's absence. For the £25 monthly prize Cllr. Field drew the winning number of 124 – Mrs. J Moss. For the £100 twice a year prize draw, Cllr. Curtis drew the winning number of 103 – Mr. Will Butler-Manuel.

- **Catsfield W.I.**

Mrs. Ann Davey reported: Our activities during the past year have been many and varied. We have run a full program of monthly meetings here in this hall as they have been for the past 99 years. 2018 is our 100th anniversary and we are at present planning some celebratory events. There were many Sussex WI's formed in 1917 which as you know, were the closing years of the First World War when the federation was in it's infancy. We tried to find out who was the first president on the Committee and how many members they had but it's proving difficult. I think it would be fair to assume that one of the Brassey ladies was instrumental in the formation in this village, perhaps joined by the Rector's wife, perhaps Colonel Villers wife, Major Burgess' wife of Catsfield Manor, perhaps the school mistress, the wives of farmers and perhaps sadly widows of war casualty's. Presently we have 38 members from all walks of life, some from the village, others from Battle, Bexhill and Little Common. We welcome everybody, trying to modernise yet keeping good traditions of singing Jerusalem, especially for Scott on Election Day! Having good speakers, eating a good tea, raising money for charitable events, taking part in village events and enjoying being together. Sadly I must mention our stalwart Gwen is no longer a member. She was one of their longest serving members, past President and I say this very affectionately, the only person who knew how to lay the tables, make the teas and speak with authority on what we should be doing, but we do miss her. We readily take part in the many opportunities offered by our federation of course, with outings and last year we raised the magnificent sum of £1,135 towards our Charity the Air Ambulance. Making a total in two years of £2,165. We are solvent, self-funding, looking forward to doing the teas for the Boat Race and the main theme of serving teas at the Flower Show. As I say we are planning to enjoy our anniversary next year, when I can assure you, unlike other WI's we will be fully clothed

- **Catsfield Cricket Club**

Mr. Mike Davey reported: Last year we played 15 games which was 3 more than the season before and we won 10, drew 3 and still only lost 2. We have a full fixture list starting a week on Sunday and we will be playing on Sunday's right through until the end of August. You will also notice that on some Saturdays, which will be six times this year there will be Bexhill CC playing up there. All money for the Council! There is a mole problem at the moment which I understand is being sorted. Two years ago we had Sussex Girls Cricket visit for a couple of consecutive years but the system has changed and they will not be coming anymore.

- **Catsfield Football Club**

Mr. Mike Davey reported: The Football Club started the season well and they were looking like being promoted, but unfortunately injuries and people having other commitments we finished third from the bottom of the table so we have saved ourselves from relegation again. Hopefully there will be some more recruits for next season and they will do a bit better. You may have noticed last week a crowd of young kids 5 -11 year olds playing on a 'Pass and move scheme' being run by a local group. This is their second session and there will be a third in the May school half term. Last season Westfield FC were also using the Catsfield Football pitch and are hoping to return this season. Unfortunately, which I always bring up, is dogs. When the Youth Team was playing last week before they could start they had to clear two piles from an area between the Pavilion and Cricket Square. It really is not good enough. I have not heard from the Football Club if they had to clean anything off the football pitch last year but it doesn't make sense that there is dog poo within 20 yards of the dog poo bin.

- **Catsfield Pre-School**

Mrs. Poppy Davies reported: I run the Pre-School from the Village Hall. We currently have 18 children on our register aged between the age of 2 and school age. Majority of our children head-off from the Village Hall up the road to Catsfield School. Over the last few years we have built strong links with the School and they very kindly let us hold cake sales in their playground to raise money. We also use their back field for our sports day. We are here for the children of Catsfield and as long as children keep coming, we will keep running. Thank you to everyone that comes out to support us at our Nativity and our Spring Fayre. We are a not-for-profit organisation, so we do have to keep fundraising and ask our parents to fundraise and bake cakes etc. to keep going as we need somewhere to be until we have a better place.

6 Electors' question and answer session with County Councillor Kathryn Field, District Councillor Gary Curtis, Sussex Police and Parish Council Chairman John Overall.

- **County Councillor Kathryn Field**

Cllr. Kathryn Field reported: As usual the budget has taken up much of the Council year with lower funding leading to more cuts and East Sussex's part of the Council Tax rising by 5% of which 3% is to help with Adult Social Care. New computer terminals have been installed at all the county's 24 libraries, improving the Council's network of free to access PCs and enabling people to use the internet and email, search for jobs and look up a wide range of information. Among those benefitting from the upgrade are users of the IT For You scheme which offers advice and support on using IT to prepare a CV and apply for work

There were positive educational results reported in the summer, including improvements in GCSE and A level results. At Key Stage 1, the percentage of East Sussex pupils achieving the expected standard was higher than the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 4 our Progress 8 score was +0.04, significantly higher than the national average of -0.03. 87.1% of primary schools are judged to be good or outstanding, an increase of 10.1 percentage points since August 2015. 77.8% of secondary schools and 100% of maintained special schools are good or outstanding against national averages of 77.6% and 93.2% respectively.

A new integrated service bringing health visiting and children's centres together was launched in June 2016. The new service aims to help families be self-sufficient in their communities by providing appropriate early intervention and support, and keep children aged 0-5 safe and healthy by providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality services, promoting social inclusion and equality and respecting diversity.

The percentage of court proceedings, to ensure timely decision making about long term care for children, completed within 26 weeks has increased from 22% in April 2016 to 63% in December 2016.

East Sussex County Council will receive £8.2 million for the East Sussex Strategic Growth Project to create new employment developments in areas including Bexhill and Eastbourne. £5 million has been granted towards a £44 million redevelopment of the Devonshire Park area including a new conference complex. More than 1,000 new jobs are expected to be created as a result which will benefit all residents in the County.

East Sussex County Council is one of seven local authorities which have agreed to form a partnership called Transport for the South East (TfSE). The vision for this new body is for strategic transport planning for the whole area, unlocking economic growth and improving lives for residents. To begin with, TfSE will run in shadow form as it develops its strategy and operation, consulting with transport operators, businesses and the public. With government agreement, TfSE could move to full operation from 2019.

A new seven-year contract for the provision of highway services in the county began on 1st May 2016. The contract with Costain CH2M replaced the existing arrangement of three separate contractors being responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new contract has seen the introduction of a new website and online system for people to report highways issues; www.eastsussexhighways.com. In the first 6 months of the contract East Sussex Highways completed over 220 planned road works, 10,000 minor works, laid 64 miles of tarmac, answered 26,000 calls and progressed major works in areas such as Hailsham and Uckfield.

The e-Sussex project to rollout faster broadband in previously isolated areas has improved access to services, jobs and education. Over 66,000 premises have been connected to improved broadband speeds in the first phase of

works and the second phase to connect a further 5,000 of the hardest to reach premises in the county is underway but difficulties are still being experienced in homes and businesses which have not been able to gain access to improved broadband speeds.

- **District Councillor Gary Curtis**

Cllr. Curtis reported: Thank you for your report Kathryn and I would like to reiterate the comments about the Parish Council who do work very hard and support the village. Since 2011 the Government has cut its grant to Rother DC by a total of £5.4m, including a cut of £600,000 in 2016/17. The Governments general grant will be cut by a further £620,000 in 2017/18. In 2016/17 the grant was £1.07m therefore in 2017/18 Rother will only receive £450,000. By 2020 Government will not pay Rother any general grant at all. The latest forecast showed Rother's expected shortfall in our income over the next five years to be around £2.4m. This calculation takes into account other changes to our spending and income generated from other sources. Rother has balanced its revenue budget for 2017/18 by securing savings and additional income of around £1.2m. The demand on Rother's services is rising particularly in the area of housing and homelessness. For example, homelessness applications were up by a third and the now 'started accepted as homeless' were up by 74% on the first six months of the financial year. The places in disrepair by private landlords was up by 59% on last year. There were 54% more investigations of reported abandoned vehicles – the vehicle has to be removed by the Council - comparing an average month last year to this year. 25% more complaints about food safety and 40% more licensing applications. It should also be recognised that the ESCC funding has also be significantly reduced over recent years and the strain on their services is likewise moving to increase pressure on our services. Despite these funding cuts and the measures Rother DC is putting in place in terms of innovative working solutions, we can advise that our services continue to perform well. For example 100% of major development planning applications were turned on time, either within the 13 week period or on an agreed date with the developer. The 105 new affordable homes built in 2015/16 in Bexhill and Rye are the highest number for the last 10 years. A further 71 were finished in 2016 in Bexhill and grid and we expect around 80 by the end of the financial year. 29 arts and cultural events and 19 health and sporting events were supported by the Council with small grants from resources during 2016/17. Only an average of 1% of public land and highways was found with unacceptable levels of litter when surveyed. Our website was available 99.99% of the time and website use is up 60%. Over 28,500 residents received a 'My Alerts' email and we have had around 100,000 clicks through 'My Alerts' message onto a website for more information. Looking at the next 3 years ahead in order to minimise service losses to the public and our residents, the medium term financial strategy and sustainability and efficiency plan, we will seek to work with Town and Parish Councils along with Community Groups in devolving non-statutory functions. There are several consultations underway at the moment including the Development and Site Allocations Plan, Sedlescombe NHP and Bexhill Community Governance review. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to look at the issue of Civil Parking Enforcement to bring back control of parking on our streets. Going back to the issue with Speed Watch - obviously a huge issue in the Village. Personally I am quite happy to be involved with this in a different vein. I have noticed some of the traffic that is racing through here and especially commercial vehicles. I am trying to identify who some of the perpetrators are and going to visit them and I have actually done that with initial success with local companies. There are other companies I have yet to see but I am actively involved and if I or anyone else can identify the particulars of any regular offenders then I will actively go and see the company and do something about it. It seems to have had a good result so far, especially with one company who have fitted all their vehicles with 'Telematics' which records every aspect of the drivers activities during their duties. If they are still continuing to offend in anyway it can be tracked on the data log and we can actually prove where they are and what they are doing. We will continue to do that. I have offered my help to Keith so you will probably see me out and about in hi-vis. There have been some incidents of fly-tipping around the village of which some I have managed to deal with quite quickly. As soon as someone advises me I can do something about it. As has already been noted I do live in the Village, I'm active in the Village and know what's going on, try and do what I can, where I can and try to deal with things on the day. There is a big issue with speeding and it's something that is a national problem. I personally run a training school for truck drivers so we get to see a huge amount of general public. The shocking thing is that there is not a profile of an offending driver you can target. It covers everybody. The best thing we are finding is education. Shockingly drivers have no idea about speed limits or markings on the road, so we have a bit of a job on our hands. It is all about education and whether we can tackle that one.

Questions and answers.

Q: Could I ask what the Parish Council said in the recent Consultation about the housing behind the Pub? Did you make any comments about the density of housing? Did you make a formal representation?

A: Cllr. Overall responded: Parish Council does not believe that with the size of the plot that they can fit 35 houses in as there has to be a green area between the pub and the houses, which will probably be like a Village Green. If you have 35 houses you will need 70 car parking spaces so we will just have to wait and see

	<p>what comes out of the consultation. Parish Council did make a formal representation and will forward a copy to Mrs. Davey.</p> <p>Q: If they are going to develop these houses behind the Pub, I presume they will be moving the Zebra Crossing?</p> <p>A: Cllr. Overall responded: Parish Council does not know. It is not known where the entrance to the development will be. It was originally anticipated it would be next to the Pub, but it could now be next to The Cottage, which would make it very close to where the zebra crossing is. They may consider putting in a roundabout or some traffic calming measure but there has to be a developer come along first. Until a planning application is received it is very difficult to comment.</p> <p>Q: The land at the back of Church Road (Brook Field) the horses have been evicted because there is planning permission to develop there.</p> <p>A: Cllrs. Scott and Overall responded: Brook Field has been sold - to the best of our knowledge - for equestrian purposes. The land is not on Rother DC's development list as it is too wet and subject to flooding. It has been put forward for development in past but has always been refused.</p> <p>Q: What is the proposed design for the handrail at the Pavilion? I'm concerned a small child may get trapped in railings.</p> <p>A: Cllr. Goodliffe responded: There will be an infill so that small children will not be able to get through.</p> <p>Mrs. Ann Davey thanked Cllr. Overall for everything that he does for Catsfield and for the evening.</p>
	<p>There being no further business Cllr. Overall thanked everyone for attending. The Parish Assembly closed at 9:07pm Those present were invited to stay for refreshments.</p>

Chairman.....

Date.....