

Catsfield Annual Parish Assembly 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 in The Village Hall

<p>Present: 38 people were present including:-</p> <p>Cllr. John Overall (Chair) Mrs. Sally Clarke (Catsfield CEP School) Cllr. Chris Thomas (Vice-Chair) Mrs. Ann Davey (President Catsfield W.I.) Cllr. Julian Goodliffe Mr. Mike Davey (Catsfield Cricket and Football) Cllr. David Scott Mr. Mike Cooper (Catsfield Village Hall) Mrs. Carol Hodgson (The Clerk & RFO) Mrs. Sophie Holdt (Catsfield Pre-School) Cllr. Kathryn Field (East Sussex CC) Fr. Michael Brydon (St Laurence Church) Cllr. Gary Curtis (Rother DC) Mrs. Vanessa Francis (Catsfield Horticultural Soc.) Mrs. Pauline Putland (History Group) Mr. Keith Robertson (Catsfield Amateur Dramatics) Mr. Scott Lavocah (Catsfield Stoolball Club + Catsfield Triange Committee)</p>	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Cllr. Martin Holgate PCSO Daryl Holter Mr. Jonathan Elms Mrs. Janet Woolf Mrs. Gwen Taylor</p>
<p>Agenda Item</p>	
<p>1 To welcome everyone and receive any apologies for absence. Cllr. Overall welcomed everyone to the Catsfield Annual Parish Assembly. Apologies were received from Cllr. Martin Holgate, PCSO Daryl Holter, Mr. Jonathan Elms (Deputy Head Catsfield CEP School), Mrs. Janet Woolf (Catsfield Social Club) and Mrs. Gwen Taylor.</p>	
<p>2 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April 2015 The minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 23rd April 2015 had been agreed by the Councillors and signed at the Parish Council meeting in June 2015.</p>	
<p>3 To discuss any matters arising from these minutes Cllr. Overall asked for any comments from last years Annual Parish Assembly. There were no matters raised.</p>	
<p>4 Report of the Catsfield Parish Council Chairman Cllr. John Overall Cllr. Overall explained that every English Parish must have an Annual Parish Meeting for their local government registered electors. The meeting can be convened by the Parish Council Chairman, two Parish Councillors or six electors for the area for which it is to be held. The meeting must be held each year between 1st March and 1st June (incl.) and be after 6pm in the evening. Councillors: After the election in May 2015 when John Overall, David Scott, Chris Thomas and Rachel Tottman were elected unopposed, PC co-opted Martin Holgate and Julian Goodliffe but still had one vacancy. In February Rachel Tottman resigned from the Council, leaving 2 vacancies to fill by co-option in the near future to bring PC to full strength of seven members. PC met once a month over the past year usually on the first Wednesday with extra planning meetings if a large public attendance was anticipated. Precept: Parish Council has not raised the Precept portion of the council Tax for several years however things PC has to pay for have gone up and also since the Coalition Government reduced funds for the District and County Councils PC has to pay for some services they no longer undertake or cannot afford. So along with the District and County, PC raised its precept by 1.9%. This is £63.06 per annum for a band D property. Highways: PC is making progress with East Sussex Highways regarding the road narrowing by the School in Church Road and moving the 30mph boundary back beyond the Parish Church. PC will apply for a match funding grant and there will be a contribution from the school. The Church Road scheme will also include yellow lines by the old Methodist Chapel. PC paid for a speed monitor device on the Green by the Zebra crossing and is discussing the results with Highways with a view to implementing measures to slow the traffic. Sussex Police: On the Law and order front it would appear that dedicated Police Community Support Officers will not happen in the future as all PCSO's have been asked to apply for a new enhanced role albeit there will be 50% less. PC understands that when these new posts are filled they will be deployed across the whole policing area as and when they are needed. It also seems that few of the existing PCSO's have applied for the new posts so there may be a period of uncertainty. Village Hall Car Park: The Car Park at the Village Hall is now PC's responsibility and plans are in the making to provide a movement sensitive light on the Island in the centre which should make the Car Park safer. Broadband: Broadband in the village has improved since the new Cabinet on the corner of Skinners Lane is now working and it is now possible to get download speeds of over 30mbs. Local Action Plan: It was our intention last year to replace the Catsfield Local Action Plan 2009-2014 which is now out of date with a Neighbourhood Plan. PC set up a sub-committee to discuss this and sent out a Questionnaire to see what the village wanted PC to do about adopting a Neighbourhood plan. PC's conclusion was that a Neighbourhood Plan would be very expensive to draw up and in our situation would offer little benefit. PC will use the results of the survey to issue a new Local Action Plan for the next 5 years. Planning: On the planning front Catsfield now has a Solar Farm off of Potmans Lane near Lunsford Cross and PC has received a community benefit of about £15,000 from the scheme for a village project. PC is hoping to use it for a</p>	

project that will benefit all the village and would like suggestions not just for bits of money but a £15,000 spend. Ideas so far have included a covered area on the playing field, redevelopment of Hermon Cottage to give more usable space and additions to the playground as well as purchase of a Marquee. PC awaits your ideas. A second Solar Farm at Eastlands Farm and the Christmas tree Farm has been turned down by Rother DC twice and also by the planning inspector. PC continues to try to encourage the owners of the Wylands Fishing lakes to come up with an acceptable plan and strategy for the site which is in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Rother Core Strategy: The sites next to the White Hart for 35 dwellings and Skinners Lane for 12 are the same as 6 years ago. PC now know that the Rother DC housing core strategy has set those numbers (47 dwellings) and that won't be changed. Planning has now had a request for the 12 houses in Skinners Lane twice the first being withdrawn as the Planners advised the Planning Committee to refuse. A second application was made again for 12 houses which was refused permission. On both occasions Parish Council advised that they would consider a smaller amount of houses. There is no progress on the other site and of course there are commercial reasons why it's difficult to know what will happen. Rother District Council hope to have a finalised list of sites by this summer along with Public consultation.

Newsletter: PC continue to publish the Catsfield Flyer and deliver it throughout the Parish. It is also available electronically. PC is indebted to David Seabright who host our website and currently updating it so PC can put more information on there. It will go live shortly.

Other: Finally two occasions where PC has listened. After consultation with East Sussex Highways who confirmed that the bus shelter on The Green was not a hazard to motorists leaving Church Road PC has now removed the side panels to improve visibility. No report would be complete without a reference to dog poo. In trying to find a solution to owners who did not clear up after their dogs PC passed a resolution that all dogs should be on a lead on the playing field. Members of the public read the minutes on the notice board and came to the next meeting and asked if they could police the area for PC in return for their dogs running free. PC said yes and touch wood the problem seems to have gone away.

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. I would like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for the work they do on in running our fine Village Hall.

Cllr. Overall thanked all the Councillors for the work they do for the good of our Parish. Thanks also went to the Parish Clerk Mrs Carol Hodgson for her input and financial expertise.

5 Reports from the groups and societies of Catsfield

• Catsfield CEP School

Mrs. Sally Clarke – Headteacher - reported:

Catsfield School is very proud to be able to build on the successes of last year. Once again County have confirmed their OFSTED status to be Outstanding. They have developed exciting roles of a National Support School supporting many schools throughout the county with the 'New Curriculum', 'Assessment without Levels' and sharing excellent 'Response Feedback and Marking' system. The School has continued to 'Grow their own Leaders' through training and extending their experience and succession planning for the future. John Elms has begun the NPQH headship qualification, other staff have stepped up to senior leader roles, coaching and mentoring less experienced staff across the County. Sally has extended her work as a National Leader of Education to include several schools. She has also been Consultant Head of a Bexhill School culminating in a very successful OFSTED result in January 2016. Catsfield School see themselves as an integral part of the Village and enjoy work with the wider community. They believe that working together for the good of all is part of the Christian Ethos and explicitly teaches British Values. They are pleased to raise a great deal of money for their chosen charities and work closely with eh Parish Council on a whole Parish Road Safety project. The children have continued to monitor the traffic speed outside the school (thanks where extended to Parish Council for the loan of the SID machine). The school is grateful for the support of the Parish Council, local businesses, the Church, the Police and Huw Merriman, our local MP. Working together in this way, shows the children that they can make a difference to peoples' lives. Real life learning is meaningful and fun. It has helped them live their school vision – 'Achieve Excellence – Inspire Dreams'.

The children continue to learn in many different ways. The school understands how important it is to engage children in a variety of learning in order to build up confidence, self-belief and become confident in speaking in public. They continue to employ experts for the foundation subjects to ensure a high standard of excellence. These include specialist music, dance, Spanish and cricket coaching. The children perform in many outside venues such as The Hastings Festival and the De La Warr Pavilion. Several children continue this out of school through singing and performing in productions including Glyndebourne Operas, Musicals and Drama productions. Fantastic! Catsfield School enjoy working with the Community and love to see members of the village join them in their learning. Please join the school of their Village v's School Annual Cricket Match and BBQ at the Recreation Ground on the evening of the 10th June.

- **Catsfield Pre-School**

Mrs. Sophie Holdt – Pre-School Chairman - reported:

The Pre-school has been going very well over the last year and continues to retain their OFSTED status of 'Good'. Eight children had moved-up to Catsfield School and on average there are 16 to 20 children on record. Across the year open events are held with the Christmas Nativity being a particular treat. Mrs. Holdt thanked Catsfield Horticultural Society for allowing the Pre-School to be involved in the Spring Fayre and would like to be involved with other events that take place in the Village. The Pre-School is holding a fundraising 'Boden Party' at Peppering-Eye Farm on April 23rd and all are well to attend. The proceeds from fundraising are used towards buying new equipment, resources and keeping staff up to with regular training. As children move onto Primary School changes occur on the Committee and further Members are currently needed. Father Michael Brydon is the only male member of the Committee. Increases in the national minimum wage has caused a large increase to pay costs and has meant that other staff wages could not be increased which caused a few problems.

The government is constantly changing the national curriculum which the Pre-School has to keep-up with. The government's latest initiative is to offer parents up to 30 hours of free childcare a week. Due to the Village Hall / Hermon Cottage being fully booked the Pre-School cannot currently offer parents 30 hours in so is looking for ideas on how to resolve this as the children are very happy in this environment. Sophie thanked the Community for all their support and hoped they would continue being a part of the Pre-School in the future.

- **Catsfield Cricket Club**

Mr. Mike Davey reported:

The Cricket Club lost only two matches last season. The season is due to start 1st May with Sunday only fixtures but the pitch is currently wet and they will need their waders! There will be some fixtures on Saturday as Bexhill Cricket Club are once again renting the field. Unfortunately, the Sussex girls team will not be playing at Catsfield this year due to a dates clash.

- **Catsfield Football Club**

Mr. Mike Davey reported:

The Football Club will unfortunately not be able to avoid relegation this year. They managed to draw last week and won the week before but this may not be enough to keep them in the current league. A lot of the fixtures had to be switched as the field has been too wet to play.

The problem with Dog Poo has still not gone away. The Cricket Club are having to hire a roller to roll the Cricket Pitch were people keep walking across it even though it is roped-off. The field will also need verti-draining as rolling compacts the ground down and disturbs the drainage system. The stile at end of the playing field has been deliberately cut. This has now been repaired to stop sheep strolling over. Earlier in the year horses from the neighbouring field managed to get through onto the playing field as there is currently no fence in. Finally the rabbits and moles still continue to cause problems.

- **Catsfield WI**

Mrs. Ann Davey – President of Catsfield WI reported:

Catsfield WI currently has 48 Members and they all had a very good year. WI members across the organisation celebrate 100 years of the WI throughout 2015 with a live link-up to the main celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall. Catsfield WI will be celebrating their 98th birthday in April. Their nominated charity last year was The Kent & East Sussex Air Ambulance Service and they are hoping to match their fundraising this year for the same charity. The WI has provided a flower trough to the Village - at the entrance to the Village Hall car park - to celebrate 100 years of WI. The annual WI Jumble sale will be on Saturday 16th April. For Queen 90th Birthday they will be hosting a lunch for the WI members and their friends.

- **History Group**

Mrs. Pauline Putland reported:

The History Group continue to meet every 2 weeks. They are a small dedicated group that collate historical items to add to the extensive archive. At the end of this year they will start preparing for a 2017 exhibition of Thomas Brassey, the famous railway builder of the 19th Century.

- **Catsfield Village Hall Committee**

Mr. Mike Cooper – Chairman – reported:

The Village Hall had not done anything major last year. They continue to work on a plan to replace all the lighting with LED which should make it all look better. A new instant hot water boiler has been installed. Part of the Village Hall Committees remit is to provide entertainment and on the 28th April 2016, Bowjangles will be performing.

- **St Laurence Church**

Father Michael Brydon – Rector – reported:

St Laurence has just finished enjoying Holy Week and Easter. Last year the children enjoyed celebrating the defeat on the French through a workshop and service celebrating the Waterloo bicentenary provided by Sussex Harmony.

Every third Sunday there is a 30minute Family Morning Service. Fr Brydon continues to attend Catsfield CEP School on a weekly basis. The dedicated Fundraising team over the last year have organised Burns Night, a VE Night, Boot Sales to name but a few. Next year it is hoped the Church will set-up a Christian Enquirers' course.

- **Catsfield Stoolball Club**

Mr. Scott Lavocah reported:

The Stoolball Club's two teams – Mixed and Ladies - had another successful winning year. The Club would like to see more youngsters coming through as sadly, the Ladies team is in decline. The Mixed team is thriving. Scot thanked Vanessa and the Horticultural Society for their donation to the Club from the proceeds of the Summer Flower Show and Fete.

- **Catsfield Triangle Committee**

Mr. Scott Lavocah reported:

Catsfield has a unique feature of a 'Triangle' (The Green, Church Road and Church Lane) in the village. For some time he had felt that it would be good to put on events using this feature and raise funds for the village. He has set-up a Committee called the 'Catsfield Triangle Association' comprising of Damian Richards, Russel Cole, Mike O'Farrell and himself (all from the Village). The Committee is proposing to hold 'Boat Races' around the Triangle and associated activities up at the Playing Field on 25th September to celebrate the 950th Anniversary of 1066. They have just received confirmation that their application to Rother DC for a Community Grant has been successful subject to conditions. i.e. dependent on arrangements for the road closures and for the Parish Council to match fund with the DC and the distribution of funds to Village organisations and charities. Boat Races will consist of 4 people in a manmade boat racing around the Triangle of 1066 metres. The Committee welcomes ideas and if anyone is interested to get involved.

- **Sussex Police**

Cllr. Overall read out a report from PCSO Daryl Holter:

PCSO Holter was unable to attend but had sent through details of crime in Catsfield over the last year. Crime had been relatively low in Catsfield, the below report makes reference to crimes that affected the community –

May-2015: Garage broken into and tools stolen. Garage broken into Powdermill Lane and tools stolen.

Jun-2015: Scooter stolen from a garage Church Road

Jul-2015: Strimmer stolen from a shed near Horns Corner. Damage to Church bench

Aug-2015: Garage broken in to Crowhurst Road

Nov-2015: Damage to window Church Road

Apr-2016: Container broken into, machinery and tools stolen. Stolen Cycle from Skinners Lane

There had also been reports of a scam email and 3 scam phone calls.

- **Catsfield Horticultural Society**

Mrs. Vanessa Frances – Chairman – reported:

The Horticultural Society has just held its annual Spring Show and it was well attended by some here this evening. There was a lovely display from Catsfield School with an Easter / Spring theme. Catsfield Pre-School also submitted an interesting display of sticks. The next event is the Summer Flower Show and Fete. This year the event will be slightly cut down by not having an evening dance. Vanessa suggested maybe the new Catsfield Triangle Association would like to arrange an evening do as nothing will be happening. If anyone is interested in helping at the Summer Fete help is always needed. Once again any monies will go back to the Village groups and organisations. A meeting will be taking place next week to start the arrangements.

- **Catsfield Amateur Dramatic Society**

Mr. Keith Robertson reported:

Keith directed the CADS 2015 Christmas pantomime. Everyone involved has a good time and CADS are always looking for new and especially young members. The arrangements for the 2016 Christmas Pantomime will start in September. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please come along.

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:

Budget

In many ways this has been the dominant feature. The Council tax is due to rise by 3.99% which includes a 2% Adult Social Care levy. The Revenue Support Grant is to be phased out. The cut this year was more than expected and almost exactly the same as the 2% ASC levy. Councils will be allowed to keep business rates but it is not clear what will happen to net importers

Devolution

The Council is currently working on a bid with West Sussex and Surrey. There are many Governance issues to be clarified. The situation regarding an elected Mayor is not clear and is ground breaking in that it is 3 separate

Counties. The economy of the 3 counties is in excess of £70bn. There is already joint working with Surrey in the shape of Orbis. This was launched in April 2015 to provide resilience and quality in business services as well as savings to both councils. An early project is paperless billing.

East Sussex Better Together

This is a three year programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) together with East Sussex County Council to transform health and social care Services are the front line for the NHS and if the organisations are working together properly the need for acute beds will reduce. The integrated locality teams that will support older adults and those with long-term conditions will be implemented by April 2016. Reformed commissioning functions across health and social care will be implemented by July 2016. The ambition of ESBT is to develop a fully integrated health and social care system in East Sussex by 2018, ensuring every patient or service user enjoys proactive, joined up care which supports them to live as independently as possible and achieve the best possible outcomes. Funding is coming from the Government's Better Care Fund

Young Carers

The Council is working with East Sussex Young Carers, a charity which supports carers aged between five and 18 across the county. A new 'working together' policy has been launched. It aims to ensure that young carers and their families get the support they need. The policy stresses the responsibility of all agencies to identify any issues or needs young carers might have when they first come into contact with them and aims for a more coordinated approach within and across the organisations to ensure young carers' needs are identified and met at the earliest opportunity.

Ofsted

Ofsted is the national body which inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people. It also inspects services providing education and skills for learners. It has reported back on its inspection of the Council's arrangements for supporting school improvement. The School Improvement Service had previously been rated as 'ineffective' in June 2014. The latest inspection took place in November 2015 and the report, which no longer gives rating categories, recognised the impact of the Council's improvement activity and the difference this is making to the performance of schools and the outcomes for children and young people. Ofsted has not identified a need to re-inspect the service.

Libraries

The result of the consultation on opening hours has not been published and to date there are no recommendations. Kathryn hopes that hours will be extended in the evenings even if this means closing on more days. It is important to provide access to young people who are not currently using the service as much as older people. Homework often requires the use of IT and not all young people have access at home; it is available in libraries

Highways

A new seven-year contract for the provision of highway services in the county will start on 1st May. The contract with the civil engineering and construction company Costain CH2M will replace the existing arrangement where there were three separate contractors responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new deal gives the Council greater certainty over the cost of highway services for the next seven years and includes a number of incentives and penalties to ensure the best possible service is provided to the public. Highways Stewards who are responsible for inspecting the county's roads, will be given more powers to fix minor road defects This will allow the work to be carried out more quickly and efficiently.

Waste

Diverting waste from landfill during annual maintenance works at the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility saved around £23,000 and reduced the impact on the environment. Waste which would otherwise have been sent to landfill during the planned shutdown was diverted to other energy recovery facilities in the south east. Around 3,500 tonnes of waste, which would otherwise have been destined for landfill, was diverted to facilities in Kent and south east London. This not only saves money but means rubbish is turned into electricity to power homes and businesses via the National Grid, which makes it a greener, more cost-effective way of dealing with the annual maintenance shut down.

- **District Councillor Gary Curtis**

Cllr. Curtis reported

Cllr. Curtis was newly appointed in May as the District Councillor for Catsfield, Crowhurst, Ashburnham and Penhurst. He thanked County Councillor Kathryn Field for her report. At District Council the Government funding has been reduced even further. There are going to be future challenges where it is known that there will be further reductions in funding of £6m up to 2019/2020. Rother DC continues to use its reserves to keep up with providing quality services, but there will inevitable changes in services as the reserves deplete. Rother DC currently has the lowest Council Tax in East Sussex. The amount of waste being recycled is improving year on year. Rother DC has been working with a number of Town and Parish Councils to devolve assets and decide what to do with those not

<p>that are not wanted. The Community Grants Scheme continues and funding was made available to those wishing to commemorate the 950th Anniversary of the 1066. The opening of the Bexhill to Hastings Link road has created new developments of houses and businesses as well as creating new jobs. Across the year there have been some issues with Rother DC's Customer Services service which have hopefully been smoothed out down. Cllr. Curtis described the duties of a District Councillor. Living locally, he has a good understanding of the Community. At Rother DC he is involved with Planning and Funding. He is very keen to help and can be contacted via the Rother DC website and through the Parish Council.</p> <p>Questions and answers.</p> <p>Q: I seem to be the only person in the village who is interested in the speeding traffic along The Green. I have written to various people and nothing happens. There is no repeater along The Green and no speed markings on the road. People drive at horrendous speeds along this road. Nothing ever gets done.</p> <p>A: Parish Council is actively addressing the problem with the speed of traffic along The Green. PC has recently paid for a traffic survey along this stretch of road. Cllr. David Scott has been discussing the outcome of this survey with ESCC Highways as the speeds are higher than what they should be. Parish Council explained that the options are restricted due to the number of houses along the road. It is against the law to install repeaters in such a built-up area. The white lining is due to be enhanced along The Green. Highways have advised that there can be no 'build-outs' or islands as the road is not wide enough. Unfortunately, we have to work with what we have. Cllr. Field explained that you can have repeaters as long as there are no street lights.</p> <p>Q: Can we not have 20 mph speed limit outside of the school?</p> <p>A: Parish Council advised the new build out at the school will go towards reducing the speed of traffic, which should give the effect of a 20mph speed limit. Parish Council reported in relation to speeding through the Village, that there are laws, licences and regulations which prevent things from happening. We need more Speedwatch volunteers to come forward to carry out regular Speedwatch sessions. The more sessions that can be done, the greater the chance there is of identifying the offenders. If the Village can get a regular system going this will help deter traffic from speeding through the Village. There are designated audited areas where the Speed Indication Device can be used in the Village and it requires 2 people to be present. Cllr. Field advised that if you can identify a persistent offender the Police will address it. Losing the PCSO's could make the situation worse. Have looked at getting mini roundabout at end of Church Road - but is not possible. Parish Council is constantly looking at new schemes and always open to suggests. Mrs. Ann Davey thanked all the Councillors and The Clerk for the work that they do for the Parish. The assembly has listened to how Democracy is changing. Catsfield does not really want to see 35 houses built behind the pub and does not want more cuts in funding. Democracy has gone out of the window.</p>	<p>There being no further business Cllr. Overall thanked everyone for attending and ask if anyone was interested in becoming a Councillor to see himself or The Clerk.</p> <p>The Parish Assembly closed at 8.50pm</p> <p>Those present were invited to stay for refreshments.</p>
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Chairman.....

Date.....