

# CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Parish Assembly

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 in The Village Hall

<p><b>Present:</b>                  Cllr. John Overall (Chair)                  Cllr. Beryl Bodey (Vice-Chair)                  Cllr. Julian Goodliffe                  Cllr. Chris Thomas                  Cllr. David Scott                  Cllr. Rachel Tottman                  Mrs. Carol Hodgson (The Clerk &amp; RFO)                  Cllr. Kathryn Field (East Sussex CC)                  Cllr. Angharad Davies (Rother DC)</p>	<p>Mrs. Sally Clarke (Catsfield CEP School)                  Mr. Jonathan Elms (Catsfield CEP School)                  Mrs. C Feltwell (Catsfield CEP School Governor)                  Mrs. Pauline Putland (History Group)                  Mr. Scott Lavocah (Catsfield Stoolball Club)                  Mrs. Janet Woolf (Catsfield Social Club)                  Fr. Michael Brydon (St Laurence Church)                  Mrs. Sophie Holdt (Catsfield Pre-School)                  Mrs. Jane Overall (Catsfield Village Hall)</p>	<p><b>Apologies:</b>                  Mrs Ann Davey                  Mr. Mike Davey                  PCSO Daryl Holter                  Mrs. Jean Attewell                  Mrs. Sarah Reed                  Victoria Crawshaw                  James Crawshaw</p>
36 Members of the public		

	Agenda Item
<b>1</b>	<p><b>To welcome and receive any apologies for absence.</b>                      Cllr. Overall welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly.                      Apologies were received from Mrs. Ann Davey, Me. Mike Davey, PCSO Daryl Holter, Mrs. Jean Attewell, Mrs Sarah Reed, Mrs Victoria Crawshaw and Mr. James Crawshaw.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014</b>                      The minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014 had been agreed by the Councillors and signed at the Parish Council meeting in June 2014.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>To discuss any matters arising from these minutes</b>                      Cllr. Overall asked for any comments from last years Annual Parish Assembly. There were no matters raised.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Catsfield Parish Council Annual Report:</b>                      Parish Council were waiting for a new projector to arrive, so could not provide a visual display this year. The Chairman, Cllr. John Overall reported as follows:  <b>Councillors:</b> Parish Council had been at full strength until February 2015 when Cllr. Auer retired for personal reasons. A vacancy was not declared as the term of office ended in May. Following the May elections four existing Councillors were elected. Cllr. Mrs Beryl Bodey had decided not to stand again to give her more time to travel with her 'newly retired' husband. Therefore there are three vacancies which will be filled by co-option in the near future.  <b>Precept:</b> Parish Council continued to freeze the precept portion of the Council Tax along with Rother DC although ESCC, the Police and Fire Service had risen by about 2%.  <b>Highways:</b> Potholes continued to be a problem but there has been a lot of carried out along Church Road as far as Henley Down with a promise that the whole road is in a resurfacing programme. We continue to monitor other roads including Potmans Lane and report all damage to ESCC Highways. This is very simple to do on the ESCC website and we encourage everyone to report directly.                      We are still in discussion with ESCC regarding all aspects of parking in Catsfield together with an alteration to the speed limit outside the school. Catsfield School has been making use of Parish Council's 'Speed Indication Device' and we are currently looking to work together with other interested parties to raise monies to pay for the moving of the 30mph boundary back and narrowing the road by the school entrance. ESCC has unfortunately has no budget to fund this project.  <b>Sussex Police:</b> Daryl Holter continues to be our local PCSO and keeps in contact with Cllr. David Scott, Parish Council's. Although crime is still not a big problem in Catsfield, we still do not see a Police presence at our Parish Council meetings despite asking the Police for this.  <b>Village Hall Car Park:</b> Responsibility of the car park is slowly passing over Parish Council. Lease papers have been signed but there is currently a discrepancy with Land Registry. We have provided a new Notice board and a sand trough. We are also making plans to provide a movement sensitive light on the 'Island' which should make the Car Park safer.</p>

**Telephone and Broadband:** This has been bad in some parts of the village but we hope that when the new cabinet on the corner of Skinners Lane comes into service in June things will improve.

**Local Action Plan 2009-2014:** This is now out of date. We set-up a sub-committee including Martin Holgate and Elizabeth to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan. We have sent out a questionnaire to see what the village wants us to do about adopting a Neighbourhood Plan but this could be an expensive exercise. One purpose of having a Neighbourhood Plan was that we would have greater influence on the development in the Village. However the sites next to the White Hart for 35 dwellings and Skinners Lane for 12 is the same as 5 years ago. It would appear by adopting their housing Core Strategy, Rother DC has set those numbers (47 dwellings) and that can't be changed except by Judicial Review which Parish Council couldn't afford. At this moment there is not firm info on house numbers, sizes, types, access and no Planning Permission has been sought and we have no knowledge of any developer interest.

**Open Spaces:** Improvements has been made to the fencing around the children's play area and we are discussing plans to improve the area outside the gate at the playing field. We have provided bars on the Village Sign so that the village events can be publicised. We have been more active around the village inspecting and asking for hedges to be trimmed and the pavements are now wider and safer especially as there are a few motorised wheelchairs in the village.

**Solar Farm:** The solar farm off Potmans Lane near Lunsford Cross is well under way and although we had minimal knowledge of this project in planning as I think they thought it was Ninfield we have now signed papers to get Community Benefit of about £15,000 from the scheme for a village project. A second Solar Farm at Eastlands Farm and the Christmas Tree Farm has proved very controversial with opinion divided in the Village but both versions of the planning permission were voted against by Parish Council and Rother DC. It may yet go to appeal.

**Bus Service:** The bus route through the Village has survived albeit with a reduced service of one every 2 hours during the day.

**Catsfield Flyer:** We continue to publish the Catsfield Flyer and deliver it throughout the Parish. It is also available electronically. We are indebted in David Seabright who is updating our website for us so we can put more information on there.

**District and County Councillors:** Both Kathryn Field, our East Sussex County Councillor and Dr. Angharad Davies our Rother District Councillor regularly attend and bring a District and County perspective to our meeting although at this election Dr. Davies is standing down from Rother and we thank her for her interest in our Village.

**Thank you:** Our thanks are also due to the Village Hall Management Committee for the work they do in running our fine Village Hall.

It is with sadness that I thank Beryl, my deputy Chairman for all the help she has given me, keeping me in order and having such a good influence on our Parish Council for many years. 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. Questions were invited from members of the public.

**Q:** Can the speed limit reduction be increased down to Glebe Cottages?

**A:** It is very difficult to get any speed reduction. The School has been the magnet to instigate a proposed speed limit reduction. The Police do not tend to prosecute when a vehicle has just entered into a new speed limit zone.

Cllr. Scott also commented that Highways will only go as far as the school, as that has been identified as a problematic area. No further questions.

## 5 Reports from the groups and societies of Catsfield

- **Catsfield Football Club**

Cllr. Overall read out Mike Davey's report:

A very mixed season with the team avoiding relegation by winning their last two matches. They also had no success in local cup competitions but did win a Sussex Junior Cup match away at Horsham, but lost by the odd goal in the next round in Brighton. Unfortunately there are only two players with connections to the village now but I'm sure that this is the trend with all village teams.

On a general note there is still a problem with dogs on the Playing Field also with walking them when the ground is too wet in the winter which means a lot more work has to be done to eradicate foot marks before Cricket can take place. Rough ground makes it dangerous for fielding. Also if anyone can rid the Playing Field of the rabbits that dig holes, please tell Carol if they can help.

- **Catsfield Cricket Club**

Cllr. Overall read out Mike Davey's report:

Last year we only lost 1 match of the 12 we played, so hoping for a similar run of results this year when we have a full fixture list starting on May and ending in August.

All games are now on a Sunday and we are again hosting a Sussex Girls Under 12 team on Saturday in May. When they came last year we were very impressed by the sporting way the game was played and the girl's attitude to their coaches, something the professional would do well to copy. Also the magnificent tea provided by the parents. Do try and watch some of our matches which are always publicised in the Village Voice in the local newspaper.

- **Catsfield Stoolball Club**

Scott Lavocah reported:

A most successful season. We won 3 out of our 4 tournaments. The new season is just starting. The Mixed team is doing well but we need a few more players on the Ladies Team.

- **Catsfield School**

Mrs Sally Clark – Head Teacher reported:

We are very proud that we have been able to build on the successes of last year. Catsfield CE School's achievements and the 'School to School Support' have been recognised nationally. In February the school became a 'National Support School' and Sally a 'National Leader of Education'. This is a huge honour and is testament to everyone's hard work and willingness to help other schools.

### WW1 Centenary

We were very lucky to join the village in commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of WW1. Our learning took place at two different times. In June, we researched 100 years ago in Catsfield. We used genuine artefacts to help us, we studied the school log books and records, the Catsfield War Memorial and the Village History Group's excellent exhibition. We are very lucky to have two families whose children attended Catsfield School in the early 1900's and served in WW1. I think that there are 6 generations of these families who have all attended our school. Amazing and so interesting! Our learning culminated in a Sunday Church service on 13<sup>th</sup> July at St Laurence's Church and was led by the children. We revisited the WW1 theme in November during the week of Remembrance. This time our learning ended with the Remembrance Service held at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Again the service was led by the children who celebrated their learning and sang songs from the time – a very moving experience. It was so lovely that many people of the village joined us.

The children have become very worried about the speeding cars passing the school and the safety of the children. They have worked with the Police and to gather information on speeding cars, both outside the school and on the main road through the village. They then wrote to Catsfield Parish Council, and the local newspaper. Mr. Barker visited the school, the newspaper ran an article, and a community meeting which included the children was held in school on Monday to try to find some solutions. This is fantastic real life learning and encourages the children to become involved and to make a difference in today's world.

- **Catsfield Social Club**

Mrs Janet Woolf reported:

We meet on a Tuesday evening from 7pm to 10pm. There are around 14 of us. We play numerous board games, table tennis and have a Wii – What is happening with the projector? The cost is £2 an evening with free refreshments.

- **Catsfield WI**

Cllr. Overall read out Ann Davey's report:

I am sorry not to be here this evening to give the WI report and to thank John, Carol and all the members of the Parish Council for looking after the village so well throughout the year. I also wanted to give Beryl Bodey a special mention after her 14 years of diligent work as a Councillor and Vice-Chairman. It is a great pity she is not standing again, but she can be very proud of what she has achieved.

Now to the WI report. We have 44 members and our monthly meetings usually mean a busy, full Village Hall. Guests are always welcome, we have excellent speakers and, as you know, a superb tea. On 4<sup>th</sup> June we will be joining the national celebration of 100 years of the formation of the WI by a live transmission of the annual meeting from the Albert Hall, followed by a piece of cake and something fizzy to drink. The programme this year contains a wonderful demonstration of spinning equipment from Sarah Moore, a fun flower and produce show, a talk on Rudyard Kipling and The Life of Catherine Cookson, together with several items of musical entertainment. We have walks, scrabble afternoons and visits to places like "The Keep" at Falmer and a walk around London.

There will be a lot of interest in the WI this year in the media and you can think to yourselves our own village WI is 97 years old, what an achievement. Just wait for another three years and the world's media will be focussed on Catsfield!!!!

- **PCSO Daryl Holter**

Cllr. Overall read out PCSO Holter's report:

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend tonight.

Over the last year crime has been low around the village. I have listed received reports- 6 x thefts, 1 x break into a stable, 1 x burglary, 2 x attempt breaks to garages, 2 x reports of criminal damage and 2 x breaks to vehicles. I have worked very closely with Parish Council and we worked together to try and deal with local issues. I have worked with Catsfield School as best I can around the concerns of parking on drop-off and collection times. Work is ongoing with the school and Parish Council and local community around parking and hopefully in the near future we will see an improvement around speeding and parking issues.

I keep in regular contact with the Church and local community and have tried to keep all informed of crimes within the village.

- **Catsfield History Group**

Mrs. Pauline Putland reported:

After spending months of resourcing materials, the History Group staged a very successful WWI exhibition held at St. Laurence Church. The Exhibition was then taken to Claverham Community College for 6 weeks in their main foyer. A brass plaque to commemorate WW1 was donated by the History Group to St Laurence Church.

- **Catsfield Pre-School**

Mrs. Sophie Holdt – Chairperson reported as follows:

Following an OFSTED inspection the Pre-School grading went from Satisfactory to Good. This has given the Pre-School access to funding for 2 year old children resulting in an influx of children. Seven children will be going up to Catsfield School this year. The Pre-School to remain competitive need to offer a full-time service families which they are unable to offer in the Village Hall so they have been looking for other accommodation. They would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any suggestions. The Pre-school thanked Rother DC for their grant to purchase extra equipment and facilities. They thanked the local residents or attending their fundraising events and also to saying 'Hi' to the Children as they pass-by to do recycling.

- **Catsfield Village Hall Management Committee**

Mrs. Jane Overall reported:

Thora Webber has stepped-down as the long standing Treasurer for the Village Hall and this role has now been taken on by Mrs. Jill Jarrett. The Hall is very well subscribed to and charging fees are kept at a good balance. A lot of local groups use the hall facilities as well as outside entertainers such as Applause. Thanks must go to the Village Hall's good team of cleaning and maintenance people Gary, Sarah and Jo. Up and coming events at the Hall included a VE Day dinner and a CADS Murder Mystery. This year's project was to replace all the lighting to LED.

- **Catsfield Horticultural Society**

Mr. Chris Thomas reported:

Catsfield Horticultural Society held a very successful Spring Show earlier in April. The next event is the Summer Flower Show and Fete and we need to have more people come forward to help out. Evening entertainment will follow on from last year's success of the Swing Band + bar and bring your own food. Membership is still only £2 a year which includes a discount to certain gardening shops. It would be good to see more people join. The Society is interested in organising some visits to gardens such as Great Dixter. (Hortic Committee Member Sarah Wilson is a garden designer and works at Greater Dixter). It may also be possible for the Head Gardener at Great Dixter to come and give a talk. Chris was also keen to set-up 'Seed Swapping'. Further events are also being looked into.

- **St Laurence Church**

Fr. Michael Brydon reported:

There has been plenty to be grateful for over the past year – a Flower Festival in August, a very well attended WWI Exhibition created by the Catsfield History Group. The Church has a good relation with Catsfield School who visit once a term. There has been lots of fundraising events through the last year in aid of the Church and to support other charities such as Seaview, St Michaels Hospice and Food bank. A new Sunday morning family service has recently began. On Church fabrics the look of the porch has been improved with new signs. The Pentecost Rounder's match between Catsfield and Crowhurst is planned to take place during May in Catsfield.

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

- **County Councillor Kathryn Field**

Cllr. Kathryn Field gave her reported as [attached](#).

- **District Councillor Angharad Davies**

Cllr. Davies gave her report as [attached](#).

Q: Is there a Community Book share?

A: Cllr. Overall agreed this was something that could be looked into.

Q: Where did the proceeds of the Summer Fete go to last year?

A: Cllr. Overall was not aware of the funds being distributed last year or for the past few years. No local causes come forward for funding.

Q: Is there any format of inviting ESCC Highways to the Village for residents to put forward their concerns on speeding and dangerous traffic. Could we invite them to a meeting?

A: Cllr. Davies advised that Roger Williams from ESCC Highways attended Ewhurst Parish Assembly and gave a talk on what Highways were doing. It would be possible to get someone to come forward.

A: Cllr. Overall advised it was very difficult to address speeding issues. It had been suggested parking cars along the road to slow traffic down. The Police need to carry out more Speed Checks – they were out a couple of weeks ago. A member of the public later commented that parking a vehicle on the road to cause an obstruction is an offence.

Q: Caravans still a pain along the A271. The SatNav's send traffic looking for Normanhurst Court Caravan along Crowders Lane and they cannot get down there.

A: By a member of the public: This has been taken to the Caravan Club last year and they are aware of the situation. Cllr. Bodey commented that problem is all along that stretch of road has the same postcode.

Q: Do we know where these Gallaghers Trucks come from?

A: By a member of the public: these are construction vehicles for the new link road they sometimes come through in 6's.

Q: There needs to be better Traffic Calming along The Stream, vehicles are overtaking on the wrong side of the island.

A: Cllr. Field advised reporting to the Police. Operation Crackdown will do something if you obtain the registration number

	<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. The Parish Assembly closed at 8.50pm Those present were invited to stay for refreshments.</p>
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**Chairman**.....

**Date**.....