

# THE PARISH OF ARLINGTON



**ANNUAL REPORT  
APRIL 2016**

Contents:

Introduction by the Chairman	3
Leisure and Recreation Committee	4
Cuckmere Flood Forum	5
Dicker Links	5
Dicker Village Hall Management Committee	6
St. Bede's School Trust	6
District Councillors' Report	8
County Councillor's Report	10
Draft Final Accounts	13
Precepts 2015/16	15

## **INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

I would firstly like to thank you all for attending this evening. It is always encouraging to see a large number of villagers attending this meeting and our regular monthly meetings.

This evening you have before you a collection of detailed reports kindly provided by village organisations, and also by the Parish Council's own Leisure and Recreation Advisory Committee. My own report this evening will try to give you the bigger picture of what the Parish Council has been involved in this year.

Unfortunately this year we had to make the hard decision to increase the precept for 2016-2017 by 44% which amounts to 46p a week for a Band D tax payer. We really do understand that this is hard for those on a fixed income but the increase is needed to look after the Parish Council's assets for example the Recreation Green, the Village Green, the allotments, the Copse and the playing area. Councillors are currently involved in discussions with the District Council about its plans for 5000 extra homes in 'West Hailsham' and the increase will allow us funds to fight the proposals, improve the Village Green and take over services no longer being provided by the County and District Councils.

This past year Councillors have continued to make sure the Parish Council is represented at all levels of Local Government to ensure its residents' views are heard. In the case of the Solar Farm it was unable to stop the application going ahead because Councillors can only comment on planning criteria but they did secure £8500 to improve facilities at the Village Halls. Councillors considered very carefully every planning application and its impact on the villages. They listened closely to villagers' comments and have taken these into account when making their response. We would encourage anyone making an application to attend the Parish Council meeting where it is due to be discussed. Residents are also encouraged to either attend the meeting or send their comments regarding applications to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

In January, the Parish Council successfully applied for funding from the National Association of Local Councils to help meet the costs of implementing the Transparency Fund. After 2017 we will no longer have to have an External Audit but will be expected to show more information on the website. Our website is expertly maintained by Councillor Collins and I would like to thank him for all his help with this. We will still have an Internal Audit and this will be carried out by someone with no links to the Parish Council or the Parish.

Our quarterly Parish Council newsletter continues to keep villagers informed and I would like to thank Cllr Collins for his sterling work on this and all the other councillors and villagers who assist in the distribution of it.

This time last year we were coming up to an election and we were very sorry to see Cllrs John Ballard and Doreen Goodchild leave following their decision not to stand again. We were however pleased to welcome two new Cllrs Jo Robinson-Sivyer and Vicky Radtke who have already proved to be valuable assets to the Parish Council.

In August we also had to say goodbye to our Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells who moved on to pastures new. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Helen for all her hard work and wish her every success in the future. We were however pleased to welcome Alison Stevens to the Parish Council. Alison is a qualified Clerk which means we still meet the criteria needed for the General Power of Competence.

Please may I also like to take this opportunity to thank all of my Parish Councillors for their tireless work and commitment to both Arlington and Upper Dicker, they are all volunteers and none of them claim the allowance to which they are entitled. They all do a lot of extra work that you wouldn't be

aware of such as trimming hedges at the allotments, cutting back dead branches, risk assessments etc.

I would also like to thank our County Councillor Nick Bennett and District Councillors Mark Pinkney and David White for keeping us up to date with activities at County and District. I would also like to thank our Clerk for the sterling work she does for the Parish Council.

Finally I would like to thank all of the Parish Council members who have assisted with the catering for tonight's event and Keith Stevens for his presentation. Thank you.

*Councillor Mike Garner  
Chairman of the Parish Council*

## **LEISURE AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Three meetings were held in June, September and January 2016. We were pleased to welcome new Councillors Victoria Radtke and Jo Robinson-Sivyer. Cllr. Helen Wheeler remains a member and Cllr Helen Proctor chaired the meetings.

Upper Dicker's well equipped playground continues to be well used by local families as well as some from further afield. The Parish Council carries out monthly inspections and ROSPA submits an annual report. Defects noted in reports are acted upon and hazardous equipment may be cordoned off, pending repair. The recently damaged netball post is awaiting repair.

The recreation ground, like other areas became extremely wet, following continuous winter rain. Earlier clearance of a field drain at the roadside reduced the amount of flooding previously experienced. However, the ground was still very soft in early April. The recreation ground, including the cricket square has again been well maintained by Bede's School's grounds staff and we thank the school for their sterling work. Sadly, Bede's School is no longer able to continue maintaining the recreation ground. The Parish Council is currently seeking a contractor for the grass cutting, excluding the cricket square which the Dicker Cricket Club will maintain. Litter bins and further notices regarding litter and prevention of dog fouling have been provided. Regular risk assessments are completed voluntarily by Councillors on all Parish Council controlled land.

The Dicker Copse benefitted from a work party last November when overgrown Blackthorn, Dogwood and Brambles were cut back. At the end of a five year management plan, members of LARAC are currently assessing whether any action is needed. The previous thinning of trees has allowed in more light, allowing Bluebells, Primroses and purple-flowered Ground Ivy to flourish. Last December a Christmas Wreath was displayed in the Dicker Copse in memory of Les Page, a former groundsman, cricketer and lifelong villager. The wreath was replaced with Primroses and Violets. A plaque will be fitted to an existing seat near the playground in memory of Les Page. The allotments at Upper Dicker have again been well cultivated with excellent crops being grown. At present, there is one vacant plot. Part of the plot has been recently cultivated and is ready for planting. While priority is given to residents of Arlington Parish, the Parish Council does accept residents from neighbouring parishes to rent a plot. Repairs are due to be carried out on a gate post and on the rabbit-proof fencing where the bases of several posts have rotted. Extra supports for the fence posts are to be installed.

Following an accident during the "Carols on the Green" function last December, a competition was launched to seek a landscaped design for Upper Dicker's village green. Further consultation ensued, leading to some amendments being made. Planting will be added to the end nearest the car park and no additional benches will be installed

*Councillor Helen Proctor*

## **CUCKMERE FLOOD FORUM**

On behalf of the Flood Forum I would like to thank Arlington for their continued support.

On January 8th this year we had very severe rain in a short period of time. This was the type of event which is supposed to happen every 200 years and is nearly impossible to guard against. However, we came through it relatively unscathed, unlike Cumbria. There was flooding on roads and also a few houses had some water ingress.

We were lucky that the river level at the mouth of the Cuckmere was lower than usual allowing the water to escape to the sea more easily. It is early days yet, but this may be because of a change in policy. In the past the river mouth was cleared twice a year, but the shingle soon found its way back into the channel, so it was like a round-a-bout. The present position is that the shingle is being deposited back from the sea so does not re-enter. The premise is that there is not a lot of new shingle being deposited from longshore drift and therefore there will be less of a problem. It is difficult to find sites on land to deposit it because the land is in the South Down National Park and Natural England and the National Trust are also involved. One site turned up some environmental species of concern so that was abandoned.

There have been two main concerns in Arlington this year – the first being the road by the Solar Panel Farm and we have been in touch with ESCC to see if the pipe under the road is blocked. The ditches were cleared but this hasn't alleviated the problem.

The second concern is the proposal by the Cuckmere Catchment Group to remove the weir at Sessingham to enhance fish passage. The weir cannot be removed because there is a main water pipe imbedded in, at the moment it is not known how deep this is. There is a plan to use some new equipment to try and determine this.

The alternative plan was put in a structure to allow the fish to climb the weir, but the gradient is too steep. At the moment the project has gone back to the drawing board. There is some money left from the successful bid, but not enough to undertake much work and more may be difficult to obtain.

We have recently had notice of problems with flooding in Hempstead Lane, particularly at Linden Kennels. This will come up at our next meeting on April 19th. If any long term residents have knowledge of this, we would be interested. The suggestion is that the new houses in Hailsham are to blame. The only new Hailsham houses which drain into the Cuckmere are those at Welbury farm. There are supposed to be SUDS there of underground chambers to hold the water back until it is safe to release it. Again it may be that on January 8th this system was overwhelmed. The Environment Agency is currently having a walk over along this stretch of the river and are planning to clear any obstructions this summer between Boship and Knockhatch.

*Gill Hesselgrave Clerk - Cuckmere Flood Forum*

## **DICKER LINKS**

The monthly newsletter continues to provide a single source for notices of events and information relevant to Upper Dicker. Information is provided by members of various groups in Upper Dicker and the Parish Clerk forwards other items for inclusion in Dicker Links and separately to Arlington Scene. Outside groups e.g. Air Ambulance and Red Cross, also send items. The majority of residents receive Dicker Links via Email. Last summer invitations to receive D.L. were hand delivered to houses at the north end of Coldharbour Road and all along the A22 between the Boship roundabout and Camberlot Road and as a result there have been ten additions to the circulation. There are now 98 on the circulation list. Printed copies are available from the Village Shop.

Since April 2015 Dicker Links has included a wide range of social events and public information from quizzes to the Harvest Supper, a wide range of events for Christmas, the competition to re-design the Village Green at Upper Dicker, notices about the Wealden Local Plan and most recently notices about Dicker Day 2016.

*Sue Simpson*

## **DICKER VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

2015 has been a difficult but on the whole successful year for Hall. Three major events have required the input of a great deal of committee time, the first being an incident involving the previous Chairman, who was found lying in the Hall car park on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 with a serious head injury. After some weeks of enquiry it was established that a medical condition was responsible for his fall, and it is pleasing to report that he continues to make a steady recovery.

The secondary incident concerned a break-in at the Hall on 27/28 December 2014. A considerable amount of expensive damaged was caused, which was not fully repaired until around the middle of 2015. Reimbursement of £1508.88 was received from the Hall's insurer in July 2015.

The third event concerned the Committee's decision to install a p.v. array on the Hall roof to generate solar electricity. This scheme required extensive works on the Hall's insulation to be organized, for it to be substantially upgraded to achieve the necessary Energy Performance Rating. These works were all completed by mid-November, the system was installed on 01/12/15, it is now fully operational, and we await results with interest.

Otherwise, both regular and casual Hall bookings continue at a satisfactory level. Fundraising has shown a welcome increase in support of our projects, for which thanks are due to both our new and existing committee colleagues and friends. Hall finances, while depleted by the works over the past year, remain satisfactory, and thanks are due to Arlington Parish Council for their £1k grant this year towards our projects, repairs and renovations. These works will continue over the next year or more, to provide the new kitchen, a review of the Hall heating system, and interior/exterior redecoration as necessary in the wake of the various works undertaken.

Sincere thanks as always to my committee colleagues for the many roles they undertake and the effort they put in to ensure that the Hall continues as an enterprising and successful community facility. Special thanks are due to Bede's School for their continued and invaluable support, particularly with maintenance of the Hall's sports field and its facilities. Finally, thanks to all our friends in the local community, both contractors and individuals, so many of whom rally round to assist when needed to keep our Hall viable and available for everyone to enjoy.

*John Parsons, Chairman, DVHMC*

## **ST BEDE'S SCHOOL TRUST**

It has been another busy year for St Bede's Trust.

Our major infrastructure development this year has been the new cricket pavilion and the Lakeside classrooms which now house the mathematics department. The new Cricket Pavilion has benefitted significantly from a donation from the Martin Jenkins family who have been involved with Bede's both as students and governors. The Pavilion contains memorabilia from the career of Christopher Martin Jenkins as a broadcaster for Test Match Special on the BBC as well as posters of our successful cricketers from the past few years. The new maths classrooms – known as the

Lakeside Classrooms – have provided a cohesive base for our mathematics department, the biggest department in the school. The classrooms have blended nicely into the surrounding environment.

In addition we completed some internal works to our boarding houses to allow them to accommodate Day Boarders. This allows day students to be connected to our boarding houses and stay late to complete work and activities. It has proved to be a very successful option for many of our day students.

We have also sought and received planning permission from the Parish Council for the conversion of the fields directly behind the village shop to sports pitches for our junior students. We are working closely with a company that will allow us to do this in an environmentally sound way by recycling unneeded soil from other sites around Sussex onto our new pitches. We are also working with Power Networks UK to move power cables underground before work on the pitches can begin.

As our Masterplan for future building developments continues to unfold we remain indebted to the Parish Council, Dicker Residents Association and local residents for their on-going support and guidance.

The Headmaster continues in his role as one of the overall Directors of the Canterbury Diocese Ethos Schools Improvement Group. One of our Deputy Heads is the Vice Chair of the governing body at Park Mead School and this partnership has improved our collaborative relationship with Park Mead even further with our students offering lessons to the children at Park Mead in Chinese, Business Enterprise, Science, Drama and Music, charity events, and free transport for excursions as well as access to our pool for regular swimming lessons. The Trust remains a Trust Partner of Ratton School where our Head of Sixth Form is also a governor. Ratton students performed in joint musical concerts with our own students and we continue to hold enrichment lessons in certain GCSE subjects for the Ratton students as well as a collaborative teacher training project. Our Principal Deputy Head has been invited to sit on the East Sussex Safeguarding Board as a specialist representative to support East Sussex in promoting safeguarding practices. We are also one of the leading providers of boarding places for Looked After Children and work closely with the East Sussex Foster Placement Support Team providing regular workshops and experiences in animal management, sport and ceramics for East Sussex County Council and Foster families. In addition our students visit the Woodlands Federation Primary Schools in Heathfield to teach and run Chess clubs. Our BTEC sport students have taken coaching sessions with Hellingly Primary school. The Bede's Community Links project have engaged in charitable work at Eastbourne District General Hospital, Blind Veterans UK, St Wilfred's Hospice and Chailey Heritage. In addition the students have set up a "Knit and Natter" group in the village shop where they interact with locals and learn how to knit. All local schools were invited to attend our annual Careers Fair where we facilitated the attendance of over 100 exhibitors. Last June we held our first Olympic Day Run which was led by Olympic Gymnast Beth Tweddle. Park Mead students were invited to take part in the run. Park Mead students have also attended drama performances at the school throughout the year. In the holidays our MPH staff and students hold sport camps for local students as well as residential camps for Brighton Hove Football Academy Juniors and coaching facilities for Sussex County Cricket.

We have continued to offer our facilities for the recreational, cultural and sporting development of young people and a number of schools across East Sussex. We continue to host the Eastbourne & District Beekeepers' Association on our grounds. Our Sports facilities are also used by the Lions and various other charity fundraising events. We allow local charities to use our facilities to raise money including the Lions Knockout Tournament where our students help to run a variety of activities, our swimming pool to allow Cancer Research to hold a sponsored swim and The Round Table to host an area wide inter schools Quiz Night. We allow local groups such as the Chamber of Commerce to use our facilities for meetings and the Rotary Club to use our facilities for concert rehearsals. So far our House Charities have raised a whole school total of £13,191. We have

supported many local charities such as St Wilfred's Hospice, Brighton and Hove Emmaus Homeless Charity and Demelza Hospice. Our transport department frequently meet the requests of local groups and charities for transport to various activities.

We continue to clean and heat the church and maintain the church grounds (and maintain the heating and electrical systems) and the village football pitch. We are delighted that the school and the parish of Upper Dicker are continuing frequent communications regarding the ever closer relationship that is being forged between the two, and at the request of the PCC of both Upper Dicker and Hellingly, have had a number of luncheon meetings where we as a school have continued to express our commitment to the life of the church in the village. We also allow local groups to use our facilities such as our sports hall and drama studios and various groups of students have put on dance, drama and music productions and concerts in aid of local charities. We have continued to have a series of concerts and presentations which all villagers have been invited to. In addition we have continued to provide a Christmas tree for the village, lead the carol singing and purchased presents and refreshments for the village at this event. In the recent water shortage we delivered fresh water to Park Mead and outside the village shop for village use

As always, we look forward to the coming year and restate our commitment, as a school within a community, to support and nurture positive and fruitful relationships between Bede's and our neighbours. We always seek to be seen as a positive contributor to the local community and aspire, through our events programme and our building projects, to set the bar high for community relations nationally.

*Rachael Woollett.*

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

2015 marked the start of a new four year term for the District Council. The elections in May resulted in a change of District Councillors with the election of Councillors Mark Pinkney and Paul Soan replacing former Councillor John Blake who did not seek re-election and myself having been unsuccessful in being re-elected. Subsequently in September Councillor Paul Soan resigned from the Council and I regained the seat in the resultant by election.

The last year has been very challenging. The Government continues to require District Councils to continue to make savings whilst at the same time expecting delivery of the same level of service. The Government no longer offers financial support previously available to those Councils limiting increases in council tax to under 2%, yet at the same time retains the requirement for Councils seeking an increase of more than 2% to have this approved in a local referendum. The Government is continuing with its objective of making local councils self-sufficient removing reliance upon grants from central government and introducing the localisation of business rates under which local authorities retain the rates raised from local business which have previously been redistributed through central government. And the government is insisting upon the speedy delivery of more new homes at a time when there is a potential shortfall in the cost of providing the infrastructure necessary to make new development acceptable and to mitigate its impact upon the lives of those living in the area.

Wealden's response to these challenges has been to continue to drive down the cost of delivering the services by efficiency savings and combining with neighbouring authorities to provide services such as building control, licensing, and environmental health and some back office support such as legal and audit work. However at a time of rising costs it is inevitable that the charges for some services will have to rise. As a result in 2016 and for the next four years Wealden will be raising its share of the Council tax by 1.9%, the first increase for five years. At a weekly cost of £3.71 for a band D tax payer the Council remains of the opinion that this still represents good value for money and that small increases now will avert the necessity for much larger increases at a future date.

As part of the drive for greater efficiency and a consequence of the development that has taken place to date the local government boundary commission has asked the Council to review the number and distribution of District Councillors. At present there are 55 Councillors in a mix of single and multi member wards. The intention is to reduce to a Council of 45 single member wards members. Consultation on the proposals took place earlier this year. The Boundary Commissioner published its proposals on 16 March and we have until 10 June in which to make comments before the final scheme is adopted by the end of the year in time for the County Council elections in May 2017.

At present Arlington Parish together with Hellingly is represented by two Councillors. Under the Commission's proposal Hellingly will become a separate District Ward with its own Councillor and Arlington Parish will combine with Alciston, Berwick, Chalvington with Ripe, Laughton and Selmeston to form another single member ward. The Commission however rejected the initial Wealden proposal to transfer two parts of the Parish, Hempstead Lane West and The Glade and the first part of Arlington Road West to Hailsham and confirmed that all of the land west of the A22 should remain in the new Arlington ward.

When approving the Council's Core Strategy Local Plan, which was adopted in 2013 the planning inspector stipulated that there should be a review of the Plan in 2015. As part of that review the Council was required to undertake a new Objectively Assessed Housing Needs Survey. This resulted in the Council being advised that it was failing to meet the OAHN figure and, as a consequence, was not satisfying a requirement of Government to have a five year land supply of developable land. Without such a supply Planning Inspectors are directed by Government to treat local planning policies as out of date and to give permission for developments that they consider to be sustainable irrespective of what may have been provided in any local plan policies. The issue of the five year land supply is being addressed in the local plan review but until a new plan is adopted, which is unlikely to be before 2018 at the earliest, the District is at risk of developer lead developments.

As part of the local plan review Wealden published for consultation its "Issues, Options and Recommendations" draft plan in September 2015. Consultation closed on 16 December and Wealden is now considering the responses to the plan. A further draft plan will be published at the end of the year for further comment before submission to the planning inspectorate at the end of 2016.

The IOR identified a need for a total of c20,000 new dwellings in the District for the period up to 2037. After allowing for developments that already have consent, a balance of c12500 remains, of which Wealden has proposed c9438 should be built in and around Hailsham. As yet the location of any new dwellings in Hailsham has not been decided but the IOR draft indicated that some 4000 of the dwellings should be in the north, south or south east of the town and the balance of 5380 on land, west of the A22, in what is presently Arlington Parish with a diversion of the present A22 and part of the existing road downgraded to allow greater connectivity with Hailsham. Clearly, if approved, such a massive amount of new development will have a dramatic effect upon the character of the Parish and its residents. At present it remains to be seen what will be in the final draft of the IOR to be taken forward for examination but it seems likely that there will be some development proposed for the area notwithstanding that Wealden is currently meeting the housing targets set out in the 2013 Local plan and is in fact exceeding the targets for new affordable homes for rent.

There have been other matters at Wealden which have affected and will affect the Parish and its parishioners to some extent. These have been referred to in the reports that Mark and I have given to the Parish Council's monthly meetings.

In this report I have sought to highlight what I believe to be some of the more important matters.

*David G White*  
*On behalf of John Blake and David White, Wealden District Councillors*

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

These points have been arranged under the four overarching priorities the Council is trying to achieve for local people. The Council Plan provides details of those priorities, the action we plan to take, how we allocate resources and measure our performance. Details can be found on our website [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm)

A bid for devolving additional powers to East Sussex, Surrey and West Sussex has been presented to Government. If successful, the 3SC (Three Southern Counties) bid will help unlock new growth and spearhead a transformation in how public services are delivered in the region, with organisations working together to help tackle the congested road and rail network, pioneer new digital technology, close the skills gap that is holding businesses back and build new affordable homes. The 3SC devolution bid has been developed in partnership with 44 organisations including 23 district and borough councils, 3 local enterprise partnerships, the South Downs National Park and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. The 3SC Devolution Newsletter gives regular updates on devolution developments; to subscribe please sign up at: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKESCC/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=UKESCC\\_121](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKESCC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKESCC_121)

A new service has been launched as part of a Government-backed drive to provide a one-stop shop approach to business support, with the aim of boosting economic growth. We have contracted the Let's Do Business Group to launch Business East Sussex, which provides a single point of contact for people looking to start a new business or grow an existing company, providing links to organisations that can provide support, access to research and development, networks and funding. Business East Sussex can be contacted by calling 0845 6018326, by emailing [info@businesseastsussex.org.uk](mailto:info@businesseastsussex.org.uk), online at [www.businesseastsussex.org.uk](http://www.businesseastsussex.org.uk) or on Twitter @BizESussex.

Work under the Employability and Skills Strategy continued throughout 2015/16 and we are now planning ways to further increase opportunities for residents. During 2015 we encouraged contractors to create 785 hours of work experience and 100 hours of on-the-job training. The 'You're Hired' East Sussex Campaign, which seeks to support work-ready young people into apprenticeships, generated 699 work opportunities against a target of 500.

Ofsted, the national body that inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people and services providing education and skills for learners, has reported back on their inspection of the Council's arrangements for supporting school improvement. The School Improvement Service had previously been rated as 'ineffective' (June 2014). The latest inspection took place in November 2015 and the report, which no longer gives rating categories, recognises the impact of Council 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.

The Bexhill Hastings Link Road (Combe Valley Way) opened to traffic on 17th December 2015. The road will bring an estimated £1 billion of economic benefits to the area, providing new jobs, new homes and cutting congestion on the A259 and other local roads. It is expected to reduce congestion on the A259 by up to 40% and there is evidence of reduced journey times for people using the Link Road to access the Conquest Hospital. The route and design of the road were chosen to minimise the impact on the environment and new 'greenways' for walkers, cyclists and horse riders will be completed this year.

Sixteen direct contacts to the Trading Standards Rapid Action Team were made between April and September 2015, all of which were responded to within the two hour target response time. Two additional visits were made to victims as a result of a relative discovering that their family member had fallen prey to rogue traders. The intervention of the Rapid Action Team saved the consumers a total of £34,850.

The new Specialist Domestic and Sexual Abuse Service, led by RISE (Refuge, Information, Support and Education) in partnership with Survivors Network and the Crime Reduction Partnership was launched in January. The service provides information, advocacy and practical and emotional support to women, men and children living with domestic or sexual abuse or violence in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

The rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 children (age 0-17) has reduced to 42.3 against a target of 44.7, demonstrating sustained improvement as a result of steps introduced to safely reduce the number of children with a Plan. Examples of actions include working with Independent Reviewing Officers (whose role is to monitor how the local authority treats children) and Child Protection Advisers to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard children. Many of these children remain Children in Need and continue to be supported by social workers.

A number of Safe Place Schemes are being developed through the goodwill of businesses, organisations and the staff working within them. The schemes aim to provide vulnerable people, particularly those with a learning disability and older people, with a safe place to go and get help if they are feeling scared or upset while out on their own in the community.

Working with East Sussex Young Carers, a charity that supports carers aged between five and 18 across the county, we have launched a new 'working together' policy aimed at ensuring 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.

Good progress has been made on East Sussex Better Together (ESBT), the three year programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) and East Sussex County Council to transform health and social care services. The integrated locality teams that will support older adults and those with long-term conditions will be implemented by April 2016 and 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 that supports them to live as independently as possible and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Between April and November 2015, 100% (4,588) of working age adults and older people receiving our support received self-directed support. 91% of new clients who received short-term services to increase their independence made no further request for support. This means that more service users are planning how they want their social care needs met and have more control over their support.

More than 14,000 young people voted in the elections for the East Sussex Youth Cabinet. The Big Vote elections saw 14,258 votes cast for 39 candidates across 30 schools and colleges, with the 20 winners being announced at a special event in December. Areas of focus for the coming year are expected to include challenging and reducing bullying and abuse, and making local areas a safer and more enjoyable place to live for 11-18 year olds.

We are working with five community and voluntary organisations to support the development of Good Neighbour Schemes, which offer practical help and support to those in need and fight social

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isolation. East Sussex has one of the largest populations of people over the age of 85 in the country, with around 10% saying they feel lonely. Information about Good Neighbour Schemes, how to set one up and volunteering in the local community can be found on our website: [https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/volunteering/good\\_neighbour\\_schemes/](https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/volunteering/good_neighbour_schemes/).

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2016/17 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 9th February. For details see <https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/finance/budget/>

The Orbis partnership between East Sussex County Council and Surrey County Council was launched in April 2015 to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. One of the first Orbis projects is the introduction of a paperless billing service that is expected to save the councils around £180,000 annually within three years through reducing the time spent on completing and processing around 125,000 invoices annually. It is estimated that it will cut invoicing costs for businesses by up to 40%, and around 1000 suppliers have enrolled to carry out transactions with us using the paperless service.

This year, projects delivered under the SPACES programme, the collaborative partnership formed of public and third sector organisations in East Sussex with the aim of reducing the cost of the public sector estate through partnership working and co-location, include the Let's Do Business group moving into St Mary's House in Eastbourne and our Bexhill traffic team co-locating with Rother District Council at Bexhill Town Hall. This year's projects reduced revenue expenditure by over £100,000 and we have worked with charities to recycle unwanted furniture and stationery items, saving them in the region of £20,000. The SPACES programme has recently been awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (iESE).

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 which sees three separate contractors responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new deal gives us 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, allowing the work to be carried out more quickly and efficiently.

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 that 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 shutdown.'

*Nick Bennett, County Councillor*

Arlington Parish Council  
Draft Final Accounts  
2015-16

**INCOME**

Balance brought forward	19676.81	
Precept	16549.00	
Dicker Cricket Club	165.00	
Bank interest	65.16	
Allotments	570.75	
VAT reclaimed	565.09	
SSALC – Transparency Fund	770.00	
Wealden Solar Farm Money	8500.00	
DRA – white lining	46.00	
<b>Total</b>		469087.81

**EXPENDITURE****General administration**

Clerk's salary	8480.21
Clerk's training	60.00
Chairman's allowance	172.67
Office allowance & Clerks travel Expenses	116.39
Telephone/internet	111.60
Printing	182.00
Stationery & Postage	398.10
Hall hire	383.75
Professional fees	426.30
Insurance	280.68
Councillors training	120.00
Councillors expenses	0.00
Payroll services	107.54
IT	16.65
Elections	236.34

**Parks and Open Spaces**

Waste & dog bin emptying	350.25
Noticeboard & Seats maintenance	0.00
Grass cutting	442.00
Fingerposts	350.00
Hedge cutting	450.00
Recreation ground maintenance	247.52
Water supply – allotments	189.86
Trees	240.00
ROSPA - play inspection	80.00
Paths	46.00

**Subscriptions**

SALC/NALC	198.33
Parish On-line	28.00
WDALC	17.00

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**Donations**

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Ambulance	250.00
Cuckmere Comm. Bus	100.00
Cuckmere Flood Forum	70.00
Dicker Village Hall	1000.00
Dicker Links	28.00
Hailsham CAB	150.00

**VAT paid** **386.28**

**Total** **15715.47**

**Balance at 31.03.2016****Reserve funds:**

Traffic Management Plan	3200.00
Recreation ground from Easement	1250.00
Parish Plan	405.07
Election reserve	1250.00
Maintenance of seats	200.00
Fingerpost repairs	400.00
IT	200.00
Estates management	1614.58
Contingency fund:	1000.00
Solar Farm Money	8500.00
NALC Transparency Fund	770.00

**Total allocated reserves:** **18789.65**

**General reserve:** **8274.00**

**Total reserves:** **23063.65**

**PRECEPT 2015-16**

	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Clerk's Salary	6587.00	6652.00	6737.00	8880.00
Chairman's allowance	100.00	100.00	150.00	150.00
<u>Administration expenses</u>				
Office £25 per month	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Telephone/internet	225.00	225.00	272.00	300.00
Clerk's mileage	110.00	133.00	160.00	160.00
Printing	200.00	200.00	185.00	200.00
Postage	160.00	140.00	104.00	110.00
Heating UDVH	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
ICO	38.00	40.00	42.00	45.00
Web hosting & IT security	100.00	100.00	25.00	25.00
Stationery	390.00	360.00	424.00	450.00
Hire of Halls	271.00	384.00	384.00	400.00
Audit Fees	340.00	230.00	230.00	230.00
Insurance	445.00	320.00	306.00	310.00
Training/Courses	974.00	982.00	902.00	1100.00
Councillors' travel	30.00	40.00	40.00	50.00
Parish Plan	300.00	300.00	50.00	50.00
Resilience			250.00	250.00
<u>Services</u>				
Emptying Waste	170.00	176.00	244.00	275.00
Emptying Dog Waste	246.00	268.00	269.00	275.00
Fingerpost repairs	200.00	400.00	200.00	200.00
Contingency for Highways work		1200.00	1200.00	1200.00
<u>Open spaces</u>				
Maintenance of Village Green	597.00	490.00	516.00	600.00
Seats & Noticeboards - Maintenance (all)	706.00	706.00	620.00	650.00
Maint rec grd/allot/copse/play area	600.00	500.00	950.00	1000.00
Hedges	210.00	250.00	150.00	200.00
Water	224.00	277.00	269.00	275.00
RoSPA inspection	70.00	80.00	85.00	90.00
<u>Donations</u>				
Donation Hailsham CAB	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Cuckmere Community Bus	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Cuckmere Flood Forum	50.00	50.00	70.00	70.00
Air Ambulance	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
Upper Dicker Village Hall			1000.00	1000.00

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<u>Subscriptions</u>				
SSALC/NALC/LCR	186.00	179.00	192.00	200.00
CPRE	30.00	30.00	38.00	38.00
WDALC	20.00	21.00	18.00	18.00
SLCC	65.00	68.00	63.00	63.00
Arlington Scene	0.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Getmapping	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00
Total Expenditure				19719.00

### **NOTES TO ACCOMPANY FINANCE FIGURES**

**Annual Parish Meeting** – the expenses for the Parish Assembly now appear under Chairman's Expenses.

**Parish Plan** – paid for Getmapping fee.

**Fingerposts** – £350.00 paid for fingerpost repairs.

**Solar Fund Money** – the Parish Council was given £8500.00 for the Village Halls.

**NALC** – the Parish Council was given £770.00 to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code.

We always allow for extra unexpected costs on our land i.e. for damage to equipment. If these funds are not required they will be utilised under another budget heading or put into reserves for future expenditure.