

Hellingly Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

Chairman's Report

The Councillors at the beginning of the year were Pat Blake, Alan Booth, The Rev. Ronald Chatwin, Yvonne Chatwin, Barby Dashwood-Hall, Steven Davis, Bryan Hesselgrave, Gill Hesselgrave, Halma Hughes, Brian Payne, Dudley Rose, Elizabeth West, Frances Woolston and myself. The remaining vacancy on the Council was advertised and Marjorie Veal was subsequently co opted. Regrettably shortly thereafter Dudley Rose died leaving us once more with a vacancy that we have so far been unable to fill. Dudley had been a town Councillor in Hailsham for many years before joining us in Hellingly only subsequently to be re-elected again for Hailsham in 2007. His death therefore left both councils with a vacancy and both missing his knowledge and expertise. At the very end of the last Council year Marjorie Veal whose work since joining the Council had increased felt it necessary to resign. Accordingly there are now two vacancies on the Council. Those interested in filling these should apply to the Clerk.

The routine work of the Council continues to be overseen by subcommittees of the Council to good effect with the result that

- the Allotments, for which there is a growing demand, continue to be well managed and provide a useful village amenity;
- the Cemetery remains well kept and the arrangements with Hailsham for its management continue to work satisfactorily;
- the Village Hall, which is used both for Parish business and for commercial lettings remains in demand and forms a valuable base for the play group and many clubs and societies serving local residents;
- the Sports and Recreation Grounds provide valuable play areas for younger children and opportunities for organised sports for adults;
- and the Planning and Environment Committee continues to serve a valuable function in commenting on planning matters within the Parish.

This year the Council has completed the refurbishment of the children's play area on the recreation ground at Lower Horsebridge about which I spoke in last year's annual report. We are indebted to our Clerk for successfully obtaining a grant towards the cost and in so doing saving the Parish a sum of £5000.

This year the Council also completed the installation of a hard standing for green waste bins on the allotments in order that in future allotment waste could either be composted on site or removed in the bins thereby enabling a no bonfires policy and reducing the potential for causing annoyance to neighbours.

The continued affect of the credit crunch and a slowdown in the housing market has meant that here has been no visible progress on starting the development of the 400 new homes on the site of the former Hellingly Hospital. However in the meantime an agreement has been reached with the developers to fund certain infrastructure gains which will ensure the delivery of the Hellingly country park, traffic calming measures through the village and a new community hall and separate cricket pitch and sports

pavilion once the development begins. We all await in anticipation the day when some of these facilities will appear.

In 2007 the Parish Council commented on the Issues and Options Paper prepared by Wealden District Council as part of its work on its Local Development Framework. As a result of a change in the legislation (not for the first time) the preparation of the Wealden Local Development Framework was delayed but the process has now restarted and we will all shortly be consulted once more upon our views of the spatial strategy for accommodating the projected growth in the District over the period to 2026. The consultation will last for six weeks from 15 June until 27 July and as this will be the last real opportunity to influence the Wealden strategy it is important that Parishioners who are concerned about our future should make known their views to Wealden Council with a copy to us if you feel it appropriate.

In 2007 as part of the work on the Wealden LDF the Parish Council was invited by Hailsham Town Council to participate in the preparation of the Hailsham and Hellingly Town Centre Plan. That work was completed earlier this year with the adoption by both Councils of the Masterplan which it is intended should inform the Local Development Framework and serve to guide development of the area.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Cuckmere Flood Forum and through the Forum, with the Environment Agency in monitoring the flood risk in the Parish. As a result of the heavy rainfalls earlier this year some localised flooding occurred and I am aware of a small number of residential properties in the Parish that flooded.

Following the considerable work put in by both our clerks the Parish was awarded Quality Council Status earlier this year. The award is in recognition of the quality of the service provided to our parishioners and I am proud that we should have received this given the size of the Parish and the limited resources available to us

In this brief summary of Parish activities, I have undoubtedly omitted to refer to a wide variety of matters that will have affected some, or all of you, in various ways.

All of the work of the Parish Council continues to be recorded in our Minutes, which are available for inspection by parishioners at any time or by accessing the Council's Website www.hellingly-pc.org.uk. In addition, the Council meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall and all are welcome to attend.

Finally, as on previous occasions, I will conclude my remarks by thanking once again all those who have served as Parish Councillors and by extending this Council's special thanks to my fellow District Councillor, John Blake, and to County Councillor John Garvican for all of their efforts on our behalf. John Garvican is not standing for re election in the forthcoming County Elections and therefore my special thanks go to him on this occasion for all that he has done for the Parish during the eight year period when he has been our County Councillor

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D G White
Chairman

Summary of Receipts and Payments for Year ended 31st March 2009

Last Year Ended 31st March 2008		Current Year Ended 31st March 2009
	Operating Income	
45,386.73	Administration	45,245.72
9,479.90	Village Hall	14,831.00
8,459.90	Cemetery	3,664.50
7,531.00	Cemetery Lodge	7,680.00
3,359.40	Allotments	1,183.50
4,725.80	Lower Horsebridge Rec'n Grd	2,287.50
3,030.68	VAT Data	4,128.87
81,973.41		Total Receipts 79,021.09
	Running Costs	
23,913.39	Administration	34,040.89
996.52	Civic and Democratic	431.30
339.46	Street Lighting	90.04
1,550.00	Grants (Incl S137)	2,150.00
8,120.45	Capital & Projects	59.98
12,667.09	Village Hall	8,733.85
7,815.54	Cemetery	6,214.76
1,558.88	Cemetery Lodge	801.40
846.74	Allotments	809.22
12,446.51	Lower Horsebridge Rec'n Grd	4,556.99
352.00	Lower Dicker Recreation Grd	2,345.76
1,351.86	Other Open Spaces	1,319.52
0.00	Planning	58.53
4,128.87	VAT Data	2,258.30
76,087.31		Total Payments 63,870.54
Receipts and Payments Summary		
63,186.10	Opening Balance	69,072.20
81,973.41	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	79,021.09
76,087.31	Less Total Payments(As Above)	63,870.54
69,072.20	Closing Balance	84,222.75
These cummulative funds are represented by :		
38,146.53	Barclays Curr/Bus Prem Acct	51,772.97
925.67	Barclays Bus Prem Acct	32,449.78
30,000.00	Barclays Treasury Bond	0.00
0.00	Cash Book Suspense	0.00
69,072.20		84,222.75
Reserve Balances are represented by :		
5,886.10	Current Year Fund	15,150.55
56,751.10	General Reserves	59,637.20
3,300.00	EMR - V/Hall Sinking Fund	3,300.00
1,000.00	EMR - Cemetery Sinking Fund	1,000.00
5,135.00	EMR - Rec'n Grds Sinking Fund	5,135.00
72,072.20		84,222.75

Members and staff of Hellingly Parish Council 2008-09

Parish Councillors:

Mrs A P N Blake	The Old Store, 1&2 Church Path, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EZ 01323 846297
Mr A Booth	Priors Cottage, Church Path, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EZ
Mrs Y Chatwin	29a New Road, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EW 01323 843346 ronaldhellingly@yahoo.co.uk
Rev R E Chatwin	29a New Road, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EW 01323 843346 ronaldhellingly@yahoo.co.uk
Mr S M Davis	Fontmills Farm, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EB 01435 813930
Barby Dashwood – Hall	The Priest House, Church Lane, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4HA 01323 844374 dashwoodhall@bopenworld.com
Mrs G F D Hesselgrave	Stone House Farm, Mill Lane, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4HD 01323 844613 stonehouse@hessel.force9.co.uk
Mr W B Hesselgrave	Stone House Farm, Mill Lane, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4HD 01323 844613 stonehouse@hessel.force9.co.uk
Mr Halma Hughes	The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex BN27 4DS Halma.hughes@btinternet.com
Mr. Brian S. Payne	Slepe House, Orchard Grange, Lr Dicker, Hailsham BN27 3PA bsandgpp@btinternet.com
Mrs Marjorie Veal	20, New Road, Hellingly, East Sussex, BN27 4EW marjorie.veal@evogenic1.demon.co.uk
Mrs E M M West	Lobdens, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4DT
Mr D G White	Grovebridge Farm, Grove Hill, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4HH 01435 813171 Grovebridgefarm@btinternet.com
Miss F Woolston	Prior's Grange, Mill Lane, Hellingly, E. Sussex, BN27 4EZ 01323 845333 fran.woolston@btinternet.com

Staff:

Philip Moon (Clerk)	The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex BN27 4DS 01323 484210 clerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk
Tracy Harper (Asst Clerk) & Clerk to Planning Committee	The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex BN27 4DS 01323 844108 assistantclerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk
Jay Pleece (Groundsman)	The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex BN27 4DS
Tracey Bennett (Cleaner)	The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex BN27 4DS