

## **Hellingly Parish Council**

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08

### **Chairman's report**

The year started with the elections in May. All but two of the previous Councillors offered themselves for re election with only Irene Bonnick and Lynn Bowman deciding not to stand again. In addition Mr. Halma Hughes put his name forward and as there were then only 14 nominations for the 15 vacancies all those nominated namely Pat Blake, Alan Booth, Keith Byatt, The Rev. Ronald Chatwin, Yvonne Chatwin, Barby Dashwood-Hall, Steven Davis, Bryan Hesselgrave, Gill Hesselgrave, Halma Hughes, Dudley Rose, Elizabeth West, Frances Woolston and myself were duly elected to serve as Parish Councillors for the ensuing four years. The remaining vacancy on the Council was advertised and Mr. Brian Payne was subsequently co opted. Earlier this year Councillor Keith Byatt resigned from the Council so that once again we are in the position of needing to co opt a further Councillor. Those interested in filling the vacancy 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, producing a small profit for Parish funds;
- the Cemetery remains well kept and the arrangements with Hailsham for its management continue to work satisfactorily, with substantial savings to the Parish;
- 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 Committee continues to serve a valuable function in commenting on planning matters within the Parish.

This year the Council completed a partial redecoration of the Village Hall and has moved and re equipped the kitchen. Thanks largely to the efforts of the Clerk the cost of the work in the kitchen was covered by a grant from Viridor resulting in a saving of some £4500.00 to the Parish. In addition under the supervision of Councillor Bryan Hesselgrave who chairs the Council's Grounds Committee the car park at the Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground was resurfaced and the fences and gates renewed. The Recreation Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor Steve Davis arranged for the replacement of the swings and repair of the other equipment on the play space at Lower Dicker and are even now obtaining estimates to upgrade the children's' play equipment on the Lower Horsebridge rec.

The decision by Wealden Council to grant planning consent for a development of upto 400 new homes on the site of the former Hellingly Hospital is subject to a planning agreement that provides for the inclusion of a country park as well as a new community hall, formal and informal play areas, traffic calming measures on local roads and improvements to the main roads. Last year the Parish held an exhibition in the Village Hall and invited comments on proposed traffic calming measures to safeguard the network of local roads from excessive use. Those comments were

relayed to the developer and to County Highways and we are currently awaiting confirmation of when a scheme will be implemented. In the meantime the credit crunch and a slowdown in the housing market now raises doubts as to how quickly the new homes will be delivered and perhaps more importantly for the Parish, when we will see the delivery of the Country Park and traffic calming measures. Any delay however may give us the opportunity of further discussions with the developer and the County to ensure the maximum benefit to the Parish.

I am pleased to be able to report that we have at last both reached agreement with Hailsham upon the joint funding of the jointly used parish facilities namely the Cemetery, the Village Hall and the Lower Horsebridge recreation ground, and having signed a new agreement, have received payment of the outstanding contributions. The agreement continues to work well and to offset some of the costs all of which would otherwise fall upon Hellingly Council taxpayers

Last year 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. In addition the Parish Council was last year invited by Hailsham Town Council to participate in the preparation of the Hailsham and Hellingly Town Centre Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to contribute to Wealden Council's Local Development Framework and to guide development of the area. Work on the Town Centre Plan supplements much of the work previously undertaken as part of the Hellingly Parish Plan. Those areas of the Parish plan however that are not covered may need to be addressed through a revision to the Parish Plan reflecting the many changes that have taken place since work on the original was started in 2003.

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. Notwithstanding the heavy rainfalls earlier this year and the flooding that occurred elsewhere in the district I am not aware of any properties in the Parish that flooded.

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](http://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, County Councillor, John Garvican for all of their efforts on our behalf.

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D G White  
Chairman

07.05.08

## Members and staff of Hellingly Parish Council during 2007-08

### Parish Councillors

Mrs A P N Blake	The Old Store, 1&2 Church Path, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EZ
Mr A Booth	Priors Cottage, Church Path, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN274EZ
Mr K L Byatt	189 London Road, Hailsham BN27 3AP <a href="mailto:keith.byatt@waitrose.com">keith.byatt@waitrose.com</a>
Mrs Y Chatwin	29a New Road, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EW
Rev R E Chatwin	29a New Road, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4EW
Mr S M Davis	Fontmills Farm, North Street, Hellingly, BN27 4EB
B Dashwood – Hall	The Priest House, Church Lane, Hellingly, BN27 4HA 01323 844374 <a href="mailto:dashwoodhall@btopenworld.com">dashwoodhall@btopenworld.com</a>
Mrs G F D Hesselgrave	Stone House Farm, Mill Lane, E Sussex, BN27 4HD 01323 844613
Mr W B Hesselgrave	Stone House Farm, Mill Lane, E Sussex, BN27 4HD 01323 844613
Mr Halma Hughes	The Village Hall, North St, Hellingly, E Sussex, BN27 4DS
Mr. Brian S. Payne	Slepe House, Orchard Grange, Lower Dicker, Hailsham BN27 3PA <a href="mailto:bsandggp@btinternet.com">bsandggp@btinternet.com</a> (co-opted 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2007)
Mr D E Rose	17 Anglesey Avenue, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 3BH
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
Miss F Woolston	Prior's Grange, Mill Lane, Hellingly, E. Sussex, BN27 4EZ

### Staff

Philip Moon (Clerk)	The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, E Sussex BN27 4DS 01323 484210 <a href="mailto:hellinglyclerk@philipmoon.org.uk">hellinglyclerk@philipmoon.org.uk</a>
Jay Pleece (Groundsman)	as above
Tracy Harper (Village Hall caretaker)	as above

**Hellingly Parish Council  
Receipts and Payments  
Year ending 31 March 2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Precept on District Council	24,881	19,287
Concurrent Functions Grant	30,629	20,110
Interest and Investment Income	1,691	745
Allotments	997	844
Cemetery	6,097	3,977
Village Hall	7,117	7,224
Cemetery Lodge	7,531	7,500
Grants Received -		128
VAT on Receipts	3,031	2,587
	<b>81,974</b>	<b>62,402</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Establishment/General Administration	23,915	22,520
Election Expenses	294	
S137 Expenditure	750	545
Capital Expenditure	8,120	1,262
Operational Expenditure:		
Leisure and Recreation	12,797	4,649
Allotments	847	870
Cemetery	7,816	6,612
Other Open Spaces	1,352	710
Planning and Development		358
Highways - Footpaths and Lighting	340	108
Village Hall	12,666	14,545
Civic and Democratic	702	194
Cemetery Lodge	1,559	2,829
Other Grants and Donations	800	800
VAT on Payments	4,129	3,031
	<b>76,087</b>	<b>59,033</b>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Balance at 01 April 2007	56,751	47,017
Add: Total Income	81,974	62,402
	138,725	109,419
Deduct: Total Expenditure	76,087	59,033
	62,638	50,386
Transfer (to)/from Capital Receipts Reserve	(3,000)	6,365
General Reserve Balance at 31 March 2008	<b>59,638</b>	<b>56,751</b>