



CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Assembly notes - Thursday 14th May 2026

34 residents were in attendance. Cllr Keith Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this is not a Parish Council meeting, this is a meeting for residents to ask questions and receive updates and key reports. *The Parish Assembly will not be minuted but notes will be taken and available on the website.*

Key points from Cllr Keith Robertson, Chair of Catsfield Parish Council

Cllr Robertson's full report can be found on the Parish Council website.

During the presentation the following additional points were made:

- A resident stated that public services i.e. buses etc need to be improved. Catsfield needs a safe cycle route.
- A resident asked how the proposed community paths maintenance would be funded. Cllr Harris confirmed this has not been looked into as yet, but volunteers would be required and Catsfield Community Gardeners were keen to be involved. The Parish Council need to know whether the Community want us to spend CIL money on this project.
- Cllr Wilson explained that the Parish Council have received feasibility studies on the Pavilion power and heating systems. The oil boiler will need to be replaced soon, at which point we will if possible, switch to electricity as the power source and cease with oil. The Pavilion does have underfloor heating. Solar is an option as additional power source. 3 quotes have been received for solar installers, and they have come from recommendations from other Parishes. 2 heating engineers have given reports on what is needed and recommended for the Pavilion hot water and heating. The quotes received are going to the May PC meeting for discussion.
- A resident raised the continued speed issues at The Stream. The issue is on the May 2026 PC agenda for discussion and to agree next steps. If anyone who lives along The Stream has a safe point that Speedwatch can hold sessions, please let the Clerk know.

- Speedwatch volunteers are always needed, please let the Clerk know if you are interested.

Report from Cllr Field, East Sussex County Councillor

Cllr Field's full report can be found on the Parish Council website.

Report from Cllr McLaren, Rother District Councillor

Cllr McLaren's full report can be found on the Parish Council website.

Reports from Groups and Clubs of Catsfield

Wombles

There is a sign up sheet if interested. Always welcoming new volunteers so please reach out via the Clerk to get involved.

Catsfield CE Primary School

Lex Beckett presented on behalf of the school as she is the Acting Headteacher. They have had a recent turbulent time in leadership however the Governing Board have agreed to go out for recruitment for a new Headteacher with the advert being published imminently. Despite change in leadership, the school is full with a waiting list. They have 108 pupils on roll, 30% of which come from the village. The cohort of children are always changing, 20% have SEN. It is a tricky time in education, budgets are tight and needs are high. Ofsted inspection was held 18 months so not due again, but the framework has since changed so they are getting ready. Next term the school will have a SIAMS inspection which is the Diocese inspection.

History Group

The group continue to look after the posters and maps for Catsfield. They received a much-needed new cupboard and are looking forward to moving the room around to suit their needs. The PC arranged a visit to Bexhill Museum where they looked at digitalising records, they received advice and support to know what they need. Many items still to be recorded. The group hope to arrange an open day in due course.

Cricket Club

The report from Catsfield Cricket Club can be found in full on the PC website as they were unable to attend the meeting.

WI

Catsfield WI meetings have been held in this Village Hall for 108 years and we are proud to continue to offer women a varied programme of events in 11 meetings per annum.

We have 38 members who enjoy meeting up together belonging to the renowned National Federation and taking advantage of what is offered nationally. We take part in debates of national, non-political importance and educational opportunities both online and more importantly in person. So far this year we have enjoyed talks on the history of the Ashburnham estate, a volunteer rescue sea-faring ship based at Sovereign Harbour, many handicraft demonstrations and that latterly a fascinating talk by a Policeman working for Interpol. Our local East Sussex Federation hosted their annual meeting at the De La Warr Pavilion with excellent talks by a circus artist and larger than life Charlie Dimmock. Coming up is a talk by a member of staff at the Herstmonceux Castle, a fun flower and produce show and our Christmas party when David Horne, a retired actor, will play many Dickensian characters. We also have a garden party with croquet and boules. Every month we finish with a splendid homemade tea of sandwiches and cakes. If any woman here is tempted to come and join us, please just turn up at 14:00 on the 1st Thursday of the month and you will be welcomed.

Catsfield Community Gardeners

Catsfield Community Gardeners, formerly known as the Horticultural Society, reported that they are keen to get involve with the proposed community nature walk. They would like this group to become rooted into the village and are liaising with the PC about possible planters around the village. They are also assessing if planters around the Village is a viable option and may ask the Council for some financial assistance to get "Catsfield in bloom".

Stoolball Club

The stoolball season has started, new recruits are always welcome.

Social Club

The Social Club is held every Wednesday between 19:00 – 22:00. All are welcome. They have a Nintendo Wii and board games. Refreshments available. £2 an evening.

Village Hall

The Village Hall committee met this week. They had some new members volunteer at the weekend which is great, but they need a few more as some people wish to step down. Need to improve bookings. The Chair of the Committee expressed his thanks to the committee members for all they do, as volunteers their hard work and dedication are appreciated. They have received £10k from the Lottery, £6k from the Sussex Community Foundation and £12k from the Parish Council. They are going to be commissioning an engineering report soon. Last year the committee arranged the Fete. This year it is being held on Saturday 1st August 2026. If you wish to help, please let Scott know.

100 club

4 numbers are available. Every month there is a prize draw. Thank you to the members and their support. Draws are made by the WI.

The meeting ended at 20:55

Residents were encouraged to stay for refreshments and speak to Parish Councillors.