

WEST HALLAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WEST HALLAM

HELD ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2018

IN THE POWTRELL COMMUNITY PAVILION, BEECH LANE, WEST HALLAM

PRESENT

Cllr B Broughton
Cllr Mrs C Barnes.
Cllr Mrs B Harrison
Cllr Mrs C Hart (Chair)
Cllr Mr D Adams-Shaw (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Mrs B Adams-Shaw
Cllr Mrs C Stephenson

Members of the Public: 7

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Maclean and Cllr Mrs H Chapman.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2017 were approved.

3. **REPORTS**

- a) Cllr Mrs C Hart, presented a report as Chairman on behalf of West Hallam Parish Council.
- b) A report was presented by Cllr Mrs C Hart in her capacity as Ward Member for West Hallam/Dale Abbey and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leader of Erewash Borough Council.
- c) Cllr Mrs C Hart also presented a report in her capacity of ward member for Breadsall/West Hallam and Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities on Derbyshire County Council.

4. **Reports from Other Organisations and Clubs in West Hallam**

- a) Mrs Karen Bowmer presented a report on behalf of the Community Centre Pre-School.
- b) Mrs Karen Pilkington presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall Pre-School.
- c) Simon O'Connor the Chairman of West Hallam Junior Football gave a report on the activities of the Club.
- d) On behalf of the Community Centre, a report was given by Councilor Mrs C Barnes
- e) On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, a report was given by Cllr B Broughton.
- f) The Chairman presented reports on behalf of the West Hallam Well Dressings Committee. West Hallam White Rose Cricket Club, the Powtrell Pavilion and West Hallam Guides.

Copies of the written reports are attached to the minutes and will be shown on the Parish Council's website.

The Chairman thanked all organisations for their input this year.

5. **A Question and Answer Session for the electors of West Hallam**

There were no questions.

6. **Closure of Meeting**

The Chair, Cllr Mrs C Hart, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.05pm.

Report to West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting

14 May 2018 at Powtrell Pavilion

17/18 Annual Report for West Hallam Parish Council

Cllr. Carol Hart

First of all I would like to say that it has been really good to have our clerk complete her first full year, I think it has been a real steep learning curve, not only the paperwork but also getting to know local organisations, local connections and getting around West Hallam itself but Kate is proving to be a real asset and as Chairman I have much appreciated her work on behalf of the Council.

We have struggled with attendances from some Parish Councillors this year for various reasons and in fact two or three times we have only just been quorate but as we are all volunteers trying to do the best for our village and all input is very much appreciated, we do not get many residents attending our parish meetings but I think that is possibly because mainly they are happy with what we do as a Parish Council.

We have had a slight overspend on our budget this year due to one or two unexpected costs, the main one being dealing with the problem of trees and bushes causing problems, we also renewed our Tree Survey and have programmed work that needs to be done but we have managed to complete any urgent work. It is good to see our play area at Beech Lane Recreation Ground looking good and a new zip wire in place, this has been achieved by the work of the Friends of Beech Lane group and the Parish Council and I am sure our residents do appreciate this although I have to say it has been disappointing that there have been acts of anti-social behaviour in this area which has raised concerns, but I have to say that although we do still have some problems around the Beech Lane and Community Centre areas these are usually kept under control by the monitoring of the CCTV and Police intervention whether it be connected to vandalism, possible drug taking or general anti-social behaviour.

It has been good this year to increase our efforts to provide activities for some of our young people in the holiday periods and the activities provided have been very well attended and much appreciated with good feed back, we hope to continue with various activities in the coming year.

We continue to support the Village Hall, Community Centre and West Hallam Well Dressings with grants, we do not have a general grant policy for the Parish Council as our EBC members and our DCC member have access to grant allocation money but the named three are very important groups to our village and the work they do is very much appreciated.

The Parish Council has supported and been involved in the organisation of the Remembrance Day Parade and church service which again was very well attended in November last year, this year will of course be very special as it is the centenary of World War 1 and there will be a special commemoration event on the first day of the Well Dressing weekend which the Parish Council will take part in and we are in the process of working towards providing something for the village in commemoration the Centenary. The other big event for the community is of course the annual switch on of the Christmas lights, again this year was a fantastic occasion attended by many of our families and thankfully we were lucky again with the weather, it is always a lovely and well attended event and we work well with the Village Hall to make it a special occasion.

We have had a fair amount of planning applications to comment on but mainly they have been extensions rather than new builds, fortunately not too many contentious ones, some complaints about the grass verges which have suffered over the winter but hopefully these problems can be addressed now the better, drier weather has arrived. We have had a couple of incidents of fly tipping which has left us with a bill for the clearance, with a free tip in Ilkeston it is annoying that people do this.

The West Hallam White Rose Cricket Club have after many years said that they will no longer be using the Beech Lane Recreation Ground but it is good to see that the West Hallam Junior Football Club are thriving and extending their use of the ground, it is good to see many youngsters and parents not only attending the matches but attending training sessions.

We now have a new Parish Council logo on all of our paperwork, this is based on the Village sign and it was good that the widow of the gentleman who designed the Village sign liked our suggestions and happily agreed to support it.

I would like to place on record our thanks to our caretaker of the Powtrell Pavilion who also not only looks after the pavilion but takes on many minor maintenance jobs for us and also to our 3 litter pickers, they do a fantastic job in all weathers and I am sure their work is much appreciated by our residents

I am sure I have left something out but I would point residents to our website and also encourage them to subscribe to our regular newsletter which is always ably produced and distributed by Cllr. Bruce Broughton, he does a fabulous job of putting this together on a regular basis and again this is much appreciated, it would be good to see more residents at our Parish meetings but as stated earlier if they are happy with what we are doing on behalf of them perhaps they do not feel to need to attend, so once again thanks to Kate our clerk and to my fellow Parish Councillors for all their efforts on behalf of the community.

Report to West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting

14 May 2018 at Powtrell Pavilion

Erewash Borough Council

Annual Report 2017/18

Cllr. Carol Hart

A few changes took place in May 2017, the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Chris Corbett stood down as he wanted to put himself forward as Deputy Mayor and Mayor in 2018. I had been Deputy Leader for the 10 years Chris had led our Group and I was very honoured and proud that the Group selected me to lead them for the last couple of years of this 4 year term.

As I had also been offered a Cabinet post at DCC, Conservatives having taken control in the recent elections, I knew it was going to be a challenge but one I relished. I must admit it was a baptism of fire as within 24 hours of being elected Leader I was being interviewed by East Midlands TV News about some social media comments made by one of our members. Thankfully the matter was sorted fairly quickly but it does serve as a warning about social media, it can be a very useful tool for getting information out but it can also provoke responses and sometimes in the heat of the moment inappropriate comments which unfortunately cannot be erased, having said that social media is possibly the only way we can connect with the younger generation.

I did not want to make any wholesale changes when I took over as I consider that even coping with the budget cuts we have managed to still carry on providing first class front line services and thankfully still managing to deliver non statutory but popular things such as Erewash in Bloom and maintaining our Green Flag awards at our parks, I know how much these things are appreciated by our residents and I think these things are the reason we have consistently received more compliments than complaints over the last year or two.

Yes we do get complaints but we do our best to respond, one of the areas is the litter and dog faeces problems, we did try free bulky waste collections but this really did not stop the fly tipping but we are looking at setting up a pilot where our vehicles will visit certain points across the Borough and anyone will be able to take their items to these sites, they will be well advertised and hopefully this might help the problem of fly tipping. As far as the perennial problem of dog faeces we set up the reporting hot line and I am pleased to say we have achieved something like 98% success, but again I would stress EBC do their best but the problems are caused by a minority of irresponsible residents.

We have requested an increase in our share of the Council Tax this year, we have managed to keep our rises to zero but with the pressures on our budgets we have reluctantly asked for 2.99, at EBC we only keep 11% of the Council Tax collected and I think for the amount of services we do deliver that this is still good value for money this rise equated to £10 per year on a Band D property.

We are still waiting for the Stanton site to move forward, we are working with Government Agencies and hopefully this site will move on, this all connects in a way with HS2, this is a major project which will have a huge impact on Long Eaton, Sandiacre and some parishes, HS2 is a very divisive subject, but at Erewash we have no control over whether it goes ahead or not but what we can do is to make sure we are involved in every step of the way to get the best outcome for our residents, this will tie up with the Stanton site as we know there will be major infrastructure problems but a big bid is in to Government to help with the problems that will arise with the Toton station, myself and our Lead Member for Regeneration are on the HS2 Strategic Board and there are new boards being set up for Mitigation and Delivery.

Erewash Borough Council has a budget of approximately £13M and unfortunately our Leisure Services have a deficit of £2M or more per year, this is not sustainable and we are looking to outsource these services, I know some residents are worrying that the services provided will not be the same but I can assure everyone that we will make sure that whoever, if anyone, takes over will have restrictions in place over pricing, opening hours and availability to the groups who use the premises now, we will retain the buildings and our name will remain over the doors, we do not want to damage our reputation and so therefore will only move forward when we are satisfied that our requests and needs are met.

We still remain a debt free Council and we wish to remain so, we have been very careful with our finances over the years, it is easy to promise the earth and provide all sorts of things but everything has to be paid for, that is why we run this Council as a business, a taxpayers business, that is what it is and we will not take risks or gambles with your money.

Locally in the ward which covers not only West Hallam but Stanley Common, Dale Abbey and a very small section of Kirk Hallam it has been good to see that our Rural Communities grant scheme has allocated grants to a few local organisations including the Village Hall, Community Centre and West Hallam White Rose Cricket Club, these grants are, of course, supported by the Parish Council and it has also been good to see a lot of work being carried out by the Green Spaces team at the Borough at Straw's Bridge along with the Friends group to make this a lovely area for not only local residents but many visitors.

I look forward to the challenges of 18/19 but be sure we will always listen to our residents and continue to deliver the best services we can.

Report to West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting

14 May 2018 at Powtrell Pavilion

2017/2018 Annual Report for DCC

Clr. Carol Hart

As many will know there was a change of control at Derbyshire County Council at the elections last May. The Conservatives were returned with a good majority with quite a few new councillors but needless to say some faces that have been representing their areas for a good number of years, me being one, I was thrilled to be re-elected to represent the Breadsall/West Hallam ward and also equally thrilled to be offered a Cabinet post, that of Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities. The major part of the portfolio is of course Public Health but it also includes in no particular order, Community Safety, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Coroners and Registrars, Equality & Diversity, LGBT, Armed Forces Covenant, Travellers etc., etc., etc. I have to say that having spent the last four years as a shadow cabinet member there was and is so much to catch up on. There is so much information that in shadow form you do not have access to and unfortunately you do not have time on your side. We have experience in the Cabinet in that Barry Lewis, Leader, Simon Spencer, Deputy Leader and myself have been around a fair while and have been Cabinet members before but we have 4 new Cabinet Members who have not held these posts before, Alex Dale in charge of the Young People Portfolio, Angelique Foster, Council Services, Jean Wharmby, Adult Services and Tony King from Ilkeston for Economic Development and Regeneration.

We made some changes early on in the year, we decided that we would delete the post of Chief Executive and also delete two of the Director posts, however, we did create a new directorship, one of innovation, this department is to look at the many things we do as a Council and to see if there are better ways of delivering, this is to make us more efficient but at the same time to help manage the budget cuts, DCC is a vast organisation with a budget of over £500M but we need to run it as an efficient business, give good value for money and keep delivering our front line services. I would also add that we reduced the allowances to Cabinet Members and reduced the amount of support members.

The pressure was certainly on the Highways Department in connection with potholes and general state of the roads and also lighting. Lighting first, we inherited something like 3600 lights out that needed replacing, we set extra staff on to try and tackle this and at the same time set about moving on with the LED programme, LED lighting is cheaper to run and also the bulbs last longer, this is now being progressed across the County but on to potholes, this was an even bigger problem, made even worse with one of the worst winters in many years

which has caused major problems, we have had extra money from Government and we have put some of our reserves into the programme, one of the problems was that the work force that sort the potholes out also drive the gritting lorries so again this added to the burden, we did set on outside help and have reduced the number of potholes by thousands but there is still work to do.

We did decide that this year we would ask for extra precept on the Council Tax but what we have said is that the extra we have asked for will be ring fenced for the area covering young people, the pressures are great in this area with foster children, children in care etc., and as with the ring fenced Adult Care budget we feel that residents will understand why we have asked for this extra in specific areas rather than putting it into the 'big mixed pot'. There may be something similar next year but we have committed to no rise in Council Tax for the next 2 years.

One of the things we promised in our Manifesto was £1M for grants for local organisations, we have recently launched this scheme and added another £500K from the Public Health budget, the grants are for Youth Activity Grants, Community Safety Grants and also Physical and Sports grants, the amounts can be up to £500, £5,000 or £10,000, details on the DCC website. Bus services are another area we are working on, we do subsidise a lot of routes but some of them are proving very costly with some passenger journeys costing in the region of £8/9 per person, this is unsustainable but we do realise how important these bus services are especially to our rural areas so we are looking at different ways of delivering these services but be assured we do realise the services are a lifeline for many residents.

As far as West Hallam is concerned it has been good to be able to use some of the Community Grant fund to help some local organisations, I still keep trying to work with officers to address the concerns about our two cross roads, I realise budgets are tight but I know particularly the Mapperley cross roads raises concerns with many residents. Recently we had a problem with flooding in Station Road but I am pleased to say that DCC responded very quickly not only on the day doing emergency work but also following up on identifying the problem and doing some major work to make sure this doesn't happen again. I would urge residents to make sure they report any lights out, particularly where there is an impact due to the part night lighting but please feel free to contact me if you have any problems and I will do my best to help.

Report to West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting 17/18

14 May 2018 at Powtrell Pavilion

West Hallam Community Centre

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The community centre continues to attract plenty of casual use as well as our loyal band of regular users and for this we are very grateful as the constant usage helps towards maintaining the community centre to the high standard its users expect.

So what have we done to the centre this past year, we have replaced the old wooden fire doors with new steel ones, altered the escape route from the meeting room by fitting a new fire gate in the security fence, thus making a quicker escape route. The alarm system has been upgraded with a new more secure system. Our water bills for the last few years have steadily risen so we have been looking round for a leak, this has been ongoing for months, so we are grateful that it was found and repaired and our bills are back to normal. The electrics, fire alarm, fire extinguishers and gas certificates are all up-to-date.

The sports hall lighting has been upgraded to LED lighting with the help from the parish council through the EBC rural grant scheme and for this we are very grateful both to EBC and the parish council for their help in this project.

The community centre would like to thank the parish council and all the councillors' for their continued help support and advice, we are thankful that we have a parish council that takes an interest and supports the local groups in the way that they do.

Roger Green

Chairman

Report to West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting 2017/18

14 May 2018 at Powtrell Pavilion



The Community Pre-School Annual Report

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since our last report.. lots of changes but still Pre-School's ethos of providing a safe, secure place for our children and their families whilst also promoting lots of learning opportunities and challenge.

This time last year we had just been visited by Ofsted but as the report wasn't published we weren't allowed to let you know the outcome (although Kate did drop some very big hints)! We can now shout out loud that we are deemed to be an "Outstanding" setting, one of only a handful in the county, with no actions and only one small recommendation. A fantastic reward for all of our hard work. We aren't resting on our laurels though and we continue to strive for bigger and better things in the future.

July saw our lovely Garden Party, attended by friends old and new and a great chance to celebrate our Ofsted report and to showcase our outdoor facilities, the Secret Garden and our flourishing allotment. It was also a fitting send off for Kate after over 20 years of fun and friendship at Pre-School.

September saw Lesley and I take on the management role, a smooth transition as we have 40 years at Pre-School between us! We also welcomed Kate Rennison as our new Assistant (another smooth transition as she has been a Relief member of staff for many years).

Christmas was celebrated in style with our lovely Nativity at St Wilfrids and a trip to White Post Farm.

The New Year has brought with it some great new experiences. When the rest of the world was snowed in we managed to keep Pre-School open and had fun sledging, building snowmen and drinking hot chocolate.

Our partnership with parents continues to be very important to us and we have enjoyed a fantastic music workshop with Charlie's grandma and grandad and some Science fun with one of our Mums who is a Chemistry teacher. We launched rockets, made slime, giant bubbles, mini volcanoes and too many experiments to mention!

More recently we have started a new collaboration with West Hallam Care home. Every Ashmere care home in the county is aiming to "twin" with a local Early Years setting to promote cross generational interaction. Residents come to Pre-School to join us for "Boogie Beat" fun, singing, playing with the parachute and learning sign language. It's lovely to see the smiles on the faces of young and old alike (and us inbetweenies)!

As well as always setting ourselves new challenges, some are handed to us from outside sources and this year has seen us deal with changes to funding and the introduction of 30 hours as well as coping with the new GDPR data protection. Always something to keep us on our toes!

Our Tapestry online learning journals have been a huge success and provide fantastic 2 way interaction with parents. We are now also fully embracing the 21st century with our new Twitter account so please take a look at all of our "goings on" ...@communitypresch

Thank you



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Registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club

Affiliation number: T-DER1835

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2017/18

West Hallam Junior Football Club are pleased to present the following summary highlights of the 2017/18 season:

- We continue to run at least one team playing competitive games at almost all age groups from Under 7s to Under 18s, and we also have an Open Age team for the first time in several years.
- For the very youngest, we run a development squad catering from five years and up, which is proving to be very popular. It has provided two Under 7s teams this year, and two more will be possible next year.
- As part of our Club ethos of providing football for those who want it, we rescued two local football teams from rival clubs who were without a future owing to restructuring; both played at Under 14s this year and have been a credit to the West Hallam umbrella.
- On the field, this season the Under 11s won back-to-back promotions from YEL Division 4 to Division 2, and the Under 9s won their league going all season undefeated. At 11 aside, the Under 16s reached the Notts Youth League Cup Final, and our new Seniors team finished 2nd in Division 3 in Long Eaton League and won their Cup Final.
- Last season, our Under 15 Girls team won their Cup Final, but our other teams faced seasons of consolidation.
- On a facilities front, we would like more of our teams to be able to play at Beech Lane, however we are limited by the layout and the drainage. We did however manage to base 4 11-aside teams there this season (at Under 18, 14, 13 and the U16 Girls team), and also allow space for Breadsall FC to play on Sunday afternoons.

President	Carol Hart
Vice President	Gary Hamson
Treasurer	Jason Smith
Child Welfare Officer	Nicola Smith

Chairman	Simon O'Connor
Vice Chairman	Brendan McGrath
Secretary	Ryan Blake
<u>www.westhallamjfc.org</u>	



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Registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club

Affiliation number: T-DER1835

- Our U16s Girls team were based at Beech Lane this season, in line with our Development Plan, although we were unable to use the small-sided pitch this year due to the changed league representation.
- Our plans for the coming season are to build on the progress at Development level, and to enter a new Girls team in a competitive league, and to make sure both of these are fully sustainable going forward.
- Our overriding objective remains to provide football opportunities, regardless of age and ability, for West Hallam residents and those of surrounding areas.

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Child Welfare Officer

Carol Hart
Gary Hamson
Jason Smith
Nicola Smith

Chairman
Vice Chairman
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www.westhallamjfc.org

Simon O'Connor
Brendan McGrath
Ryan Blake

Report to West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting 2017/18

14 May 2018

Report from Powtrell Pavilion 2017/18

Highlights

Total income was just over £6,000 from hirings and bookings. This is the highest level it has been.

The main users were the West Hallam JFC, but two other football clubs also hire the facility, and between them they brought in £1,450.

Regular bookings include Yoga on Thursday evenings and Tai Chi on Wednesday evenings, with Bridge Club on Tuesday mornings and Toddlers on Friday mornings. We also have a second Yoga group on Tuesday evenings, a Health Clinic every second Thursday morning, and a children's cookery class on Monday afternoons. Unfortunately, the second Yoga class has now stopped, and cookery is paused until a new Leader is found.

We also received almost £700 from the Parish Council hirings and our use as a Polling Station.

Sundry meetings and parties are very important to us, and they accounted for almost £600 last year; we remain great value at just £10 per hour!

Our costs were higher than usual due to over £1,200 of repairs to the premises including the handrail outside and the purchase of new bolts. Overall, we made a surplus of £1200, our highest level.

Despite the falling away of cricket, yoga and cookery, we have an exciting new agreement with the national Childbirth Trust to use our pavilion for their courses going forward. This, together with the new regular bookings like Bridge Club and West Hallam Pre-school management meetings, should mean that we again record a small surplus in the current year, although as ever we are dependant upon the football club being able to play all its scheduled games on the pitches.

West Hallam Annual Parish Meeting

14 May 2018

Report of the Parish Council's Representative on the West Hallam Village Hall Charity Committee

- 1 I am pleased to have continued to represent the Parish Council on the West Hallam Village Hall Charity for the past twelve months and it has been a privilege to be involved.
- 2 Whilst it is very much stating the obvious, this is an old building which needs a lot of attention on an on-going basis and as I've said in previous years the Committee members and a growing number of other volunteers do a huge amount of unseen work to keep things running.
- 3 In some respects, it's a little like the Forth Bridge as there's always jobs to be done, but a major highlight this past year has been the complete rewiring of the building which is now fully compliant with current standards.
- 4 Unfortunately, the building does not yet fully comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 as there is no disabled toilet and the layout of the front entrance lobby does not meet the standards required for wheelchair users because the doors are too close together.
- 5 Considerable progress has been made in obtaining planning permission and listed building consent for an extension to accommodate a disabled toilet facility for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairment and the proposed extension will also provide access via an entrance with a level threshold.
- 6 The Village Hall continues to play its part in popular community events including the annual Well Dressings and Christmas Lights and is itself an event promoter as part of the Live and Local rural arts touring programme.
- 7 The hall is currently used by local organisations and individuals for a wide range of social activities and events including wedding receptions, christenings and parties. The building is available for hire every day of the week and users have included the under 5s attending the pre-school, young people attending Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and elderly clients of the 4 Seasons Luncheon Club. Fitness, educational and interest groups using the hall include yoga, dance, portraiture, wine appreciation and pilates. Erewash Ramblers Association and Women's Institute meetings are also held at the hall.
- 8 As most of you will know, the hall has now said goodbye to the Village Pre-School which has moved to new premises at Scargill School but a marketing campaign to enable wider opportunities for the community is underway and some of the vacated slots have already been filled.

- 9 The main focus for the coming year will be to obtain the necessary funding to progress the proposed extension and the Committee will continue to use the results of their community survey in 2016 to inform future planning & activities and to build up a good evidence case to convince funders of the need for the project.
- 10 In her Annual Report to the Charity's recent AGM (which was for the year ended 31 December 2017) the Chair, Ann Ainsworth, acknowledged the continuing financial support of the Parish Council towards running costs and also from the Erewash Borough Council Members' Grant Scheme and Derbyshire County Council's Members' Community Leadership Scheme to enable the purchase of portable lightweight staging.

Bruce Broughton
May 2018

Report to West Hallam Village Annual Parish Meeting 2017/18

14 May 2018 at Powtrell Pavillion, West Hallam

West Hallam Village Pre-School

Karen Pilkington

Chairperson

The past year has been one of change for us. After approximately 30 years of running our Pre-School from the Village Hall, we were offered the opportunity by Scargill School to relocate to their premises. This was a very difficult decision for us as a Committee. We were aware of the impact our decision would have on the Village Hall but had to consider the benefits that would be seen by our children and staff if we were to move. 2017 was also our 50th year since registration, so an emotional time to be making such dramatic changes.

To acknowledge our 50th year, we updated our logo using a local design company. They did an amazing job, whilst ensuring that we didn't lose our identity. The new logo has been used on all correspondence and allowed us to update all our staff uniforms. We are currently working on our dated website to ensure our identity is standardised.

It took a lot of organisation, but we managed to move the Pre-School over the Christmas holidays and opened to the children on Monday 8th January this year. Sadly, our Manager Coral Vickerton, decided to take early retirement before the move after running the Pre-School for nearly 30 years. This caused some restructuring within the staff and a level of adjustment for all.

Being within the school has allowed us to open five days a week, offering two sessions each day – 9am until 12pm and 12pm until 3pm. We currently have just over 60 children on our role between 2 and 4 years old, which hasn't increased greatly, but we are able to have more children in each session, as the available floor space has increased. This may grow as we become more established in our new surroundings.

After we had settled in, we began recruiting and were joined in February by a new Manager, Assistant Manager and Qualified Assistant who are working well with the existing team and moving the setting forward. They have all worked hard to develop the surroundings – we have a more stable structure to the sessions as the room layout can now remain and doesn't require packing away each day. We have developed our outside space, with a garden area, music area and large sandpit, which the children love and now the weather is improving, we can make use of the large playgrounds and field, all within a secure environment.

We have remained an independent charity within the grounds of Scargill and are open to all children, not just those wishing to go to Scargill in September. Being independent, fundraising is still key for us to allow the children to have a rich and evolving learning environment. We continue to think of new fundraising ideas and have been exceptionally grateful for all donations we have received.

We hope to continue to work closely with all members of the local community and support our surroundings. Although we are now in new facilities, we hope to still contribute to the Village in any way we can.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18
West Hallam Well Dressing Committee

The Well Dressings Festival, held on 15 July 2017 was again huge success with an estimated 1,500 people attending. It was opened by the chair of the Parish Council, Mrs Carol Hart.

The children were entertained free of charge by “Hook a Duck, Jeffrey Jumper and Jumping Clay. We also had a Face Painter.

For the first time this year the parking area in front of Tesco was used for performers, therefore, providing more space and making the road through the village less crowded.

Again, there was an Arts Market in the Village Hall yard and about 20 charity stalls along the pedestrian area.

As always, the Scouts served tea/coffee in the Village Hall and raised a considerable amount of money for their cause.

On the Sunday afternoon after the festival a brass band played at the Village Hall which is booked and paid for by the West Hallam Parish Council. This event is well visited and appreciated by the parishioners.

Thanks are also going to Pete Lilley for organising the very popular Scare Crow Trail.

The Well Dressings Committee is very grateful for the generous financial support from the WHPC towards the expenses of this traditional festival.

Hilde Greenfield

Annual Report 2017/18

West Hallam White Rose Cricket Club

During the last 12 months the club has looked to carry out work to improve both internal and external facilities at Cock Orchard. This has involved extension and refurbishment of the clubhouse, which has been carried out over the winter with the help of a grant from Erewash Borough Council for which we are exceptionally grateful. This will help us provide improved facilities not only for our own members but also for outside functions coming into the club. In addition we have recently purchased patio furniture (albeit second hand!) and hope that these moves will enable us to interact further with the village community with which we already have a good relationship.

We hope to be able to improve the roadway and drive to the ground by getting tarmac contractors involved in the next few months, and look to improving drainage on the ground.

We have suffered a few incidents of vandalism, mainly minor, but nevertheless at some cost and time to replace or put right, but recently 4 young persons were caught on cctv and then apprehended by the police. They have been told to report to the club to carry out "community service" and last Saturday they spent a few hours painting the picket fencing at the bottom of the ground. We hope this deters any future incidents not only at our ground but throughout the village as we are sure they will have told their mates!!

On the field both teams won their respective leagues last season and have made good starts to 2018.