

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 25 MAY 2022 HELD AT 7.30PM  
IN STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Parish Cllr Robert Hubble (Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Nick Smith  
Parish Cllr Laszlo Dudas  
Parish Cllr Garry Watts  
Parish Cllr Ann Day  
Parish Cllr Pam Carr  
FHDC Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee

Lee Jones, Internal Auditor  
Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council  
There were 7 members of the public present.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Haffenden(holiday). Cllr Hubble welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first APM since May 2019.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 15 MAY 2019**

The minutes from the meeting in 2019 were proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Day and so it was AGREED that the minutes be accepted. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

**3. CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT**

Cllr Hubble gave his report as follows:

Welcome to this the Annual Parish meeting for Stelling Minnis.

During the past year we have met every two months and dealt with many different aspects in running an active Parish Council especially with the Pandemic which was over whelming in most of our village communities. During the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown SMPC took on a FREE grocery delivery service to residents in both Stelling Minnis, Elmsted and Upper Hardres from our most valuable village shop. It was greatly appreciated by all we delivered to and hopefully something we don't have to repeat.

As most people would know that SMPC are the first to be advised of any Planning application sent to us from FHDC and we examine and discuss the impact they may or not have on the village street scene especially.

Since we last had our last Parish meeting back in 2019 the field behind our village pub was just green grass but not now. We now have an almost complete housing project of 13 houses in Rose Lane which fits into the community exceptionally well with the entrance off Minnis Lane. It is difficult to believe that KCC Highways sanctioned an entrance off Crown Lane, as an alternative, which would have been a disaster being a single track road and site access would have been virtually impossible

As reported in 2019 Parish meeting an application has now been lodged for a Certificate of Lawfulness in the upper part of Fryarne Park Wood which is currently being handled by Folkestone and Hythe Planning Enforcement officer even after 3 years. Your Parish Council is vigorously opposing this application as it makes a mockery of our planning system. Over the past 2 + years we have handled 18 Planning applications in 2020 with 3 refusals and another 18 in 2021 with one refusal.

Back in 2019 an additional bus stop shelter at the top of Wheelbarrow Town hill near Sunrise was discussed and proposed and I can report and as can be seen by everyone it has been finished in natural oak and looks splendid in the surrounding and it is awaiting the glass to be finished. Many walkers, motorcyclists and bus passengers use this and we have also put in an additional notice board. The cost was circa £9,000 which was financed by grant and individual company contributions and will last for many years to come

Our central, opposite the village shop, combined notice board/bus shelter has been completed and is a wonderful asset for the village and has a good usage with the local community and incorporates our local village Primary School news which is a good community link so people know what is happening at the school.

The defibrillator cabinet, which has now been installed on the wall of Stelling Minnis Stores has been well looked after during the past two years and we are looking to install another defib machine outside SM Village Hall. When the shop is closed there is a telephone number to call who will give that number for activation. Steve Moores gave an excellent 1 to 1 demonstration back in January 2022 in the village hall and we thank him for showing us all how it was to be used. The defibrillator itself is owned by South East Coast Ambulance Service and maintained by Steve Moores. On Sunday 5th June at 12.00 we will be unveiling QE2 plaque outside of the village hall adjacent to our new SM flag pole.

On behalf of the Managers of Stelling Minnis Common we did ask for a review of speed limits on Bossingham Road where it passes the invisible fencing areas, that hold the grazing cattle, which is currently still being explored for a speed reduction and could take a while before any positive decision can be reached on any speed restriction.

Davison's Windmill book is available from the village shop or local pub and has proved to be an astonishing publication which every house in Stelling Minnis should have. As everyone knows that during the pandemic the Windmill was closed but now it is open every Sunday from 2 to 5. Neighbour Hood Watch coordinator is still being sort which has proved to be a difficult post to fill but fulfils a vital link especially with his warnings about the various scams that are being operated by certain call centres from different parts of the world.

And finally I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Gail Hubbard who is now enjoying her second year, who has done a sterling job and has an extensive knowledge of the workings and ways of KALC and to our Hon Auditor, Lee Jones, who will keep us in check where appropriate. Because Parish Council represents the community then our representatives are also your representatives, so please contact them if you have a question; our Clerk will provide contact details on request.

We are very grateful for the work done by Martin Hart as our Footpath Warden. We have discovered various scrap books and photos of times gone by in Stelling Minnis history from the 40's, 50's and 60's which you may find of interest so please have a look at them on the table.

Finally if there is anything that I have not mentioned in this summary, that you wish to talk to me or any of the Councillors about, then please do so later when there is an opportunity for questions or after the formal part of the meeting has finished

#### **4. PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021-22**

The Clerk read out her report as follows:

This is my report on the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, which were presented to the Councillors and approved at the Statutory Annual Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The accounts have been audited by our Internal Auditor, Lee Jones and are ready to be sent off for external audit with PKF Littlejohn, who do all of the Kent parishes auditing. In a normal year SMPC are exempt from an external audit but the receipt of £25,300 CIL monies has pushed us over the £25,000 threshold for the year (so we require an intermediate audit).

The gross income for the year was £37,518.50, this included a £25,300 CIL (Community infrastructure Levy) payment through from Folkestone & Hythe DC, £500 MADL (Make a Difference Locally) grant, a KCC Bus Shelter grant of £3,307.50, a £600 KCC members fund grant from Cllr Carey towards the flagpole project and a £300 grant from each of the District Cllrs Carey and Hollingsbee again towards the flagpole project.

The gross expenditure for the year was £15,620.20, with the main areas of expenditure being the flagpole project and bus shelters. The balance at year end stands at a rather healthier £34,643.00. The fixed assets value now stands at £32,847.00.

The precept for this current year 2022-23 was set at our January meeting with the figures then passed to Folkestone & Hythe DC to collect from the residents on our behalf. There was an increase of £432 agreed. This equates to an increase of £2.38 on a band D properties annual charge.

There are copies of the approved accounts available on the front table along with the minutes from the last held APM in 2019.

## **5. AN INTRODUCTION TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PRESENTATION**

Cllr Dudas addressed the meeting with a slide presentation on Neighbourhood Planning and what having one could mean for the village. An extra ordinary meeting is to be held for the parish council to discuss this matter further and decide on next steps.

Full presentation attached as Appendix B

## **6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

FHDC Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee read out her report as follows:

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee represent North Downs West Ward which includes the communities of Bodsham, Elmsted, Etchinghill, Lyminge, Postling, Sellindge, Stelling Minnis, Stanford, Stowting and all points between.

This report aims to give a brief summary of our work over the last two years – most of which has been during ‘lockdown’ which affected all our services either directly or indirectly.

All District Council Meetings and most Parish Council meetings were held virtually which meant we were able to attend more than usual as we could go straight from one zoom meeting to the next without needing to travel. Emails and phone calls continued as normal but services were hit by staff catching Covid or needing to isolate because a family member was vulnerable or because they’d been in contact with someone with Covid. Our kerbside waste collection service kept going throughout lockdown even taking on additional subscribers to the garden waste service but in May 2021 the renewal of our contract with Veolia saw a change in routes and computer systems which was badly managed. Whole streets were missed and eventually the garden waste collections were suspended till the new system could be stabilised. Thankfully we have now returned to a good level of reliability, garden waste services have resumed (with a

suitable adjustment in payment for the missed collections) and we are now seeking compensation from Veolia.

The District Council was quick to react to the initial lockdown in March 2020 by setting up three Community Hubs within a week with dedicated email and telephone lines. The Community Hub for our area was run by Age UK Hythe & Lyminge. These hubs were extremely successful and a district wide network of support was set-up to deal with any issue arising from the Covid outbreak such as delivery of food and medicines to those shielding. Funding was provided via Government and the County Council and was distributed by the District Council. The Hubs worked in Partnership with GP Practices, calling all vulnerable patients on behalf of the Practice – they were also very much involved in the vaccination programme. The Partnership that developed through the Hubs continues with fortnightly meetings and is now also part of the Ukrainian Network Support that the District Council instigated with the Community.

The District Council were actively involved in the Vaccination programme and FOLCA (the old Debenhams building) was set-up as a Vaccination Centre, while the Civic Centre Car Park was utilised for Testing – a drive-in facility. Officers worked with Health Centre personnel to put these arrangements into operation at very short notice. The Community Safety Unit also worked extremely closely with the Police relating to the Covid lockdown regulations.

During this time also, the Policy & Places Plan was found sound by the Examination Inspector and just recently the Local Plan Review was also found to be sound. Both these documents have now been agreed by the full Council. The Council's plans for a new leisure centre, promenade, parks and homes at Princes Parade are now proceeding following a Public Enquiry into the realignment of the road. We believe this development will be as popular as the Harbour Arm in Folkestone and provide a much needed replacement for the swimming pool in Hythe.

On Otterpool Park, a revised planning application has been submitted and will be out for consultation shortly. The District Council Project team have been meeting regularly with Parish Councils who adjoin the planned development and it is expected that these liaison meetings will continue indefinitely. A programme of events has taken place and will continue to take place at Westenhanger Castle as well as a board game 'Telling the Otterpool Tale' being devised by Strange Cargo and distributed to Schools. See below for details of an up and coming event

We were sorry to see the end of the six month trial of wheel clamping for illegally parked HGVs which the Government authorised KCC to do as part of the transition arrangements for leaving the EU at the end of 2020. We have now reverted to the District Council officers issuing parking fines which are pursued where necessary by overseas debt collection agencies. We know HGVs can cause much damage and disturbance and we raise the issue at every opportunity.

Through our Ward Grants we have supported the following organisations over the last two years –

Etchinghill Residents Association	£ 250
Sellindge Tennis Club	£1,442
Sellindge Bowls Club	£ 500
Stour Downs Parish (Stowting Church)	£1,200
Lyminge Scouts	£2,608
Stelling Minnis Parish Council	£1,100
Stour Downs Parish (Sellindge Church)	£ 500
Stowting Primary School	£1,000
Stanford Parish Council (Defibrillators)	£ 600
Lyminge Primary School	£ 500
Postling – (phone box project)	£ 600
Sellindge War Memorial Hall (kitchen)	£1,000
Sellindge & District Playing Fields Benevolent Society (flagpole)	£ 700

Your District Council has also been working on projects to reduce its carbon emissions and those in the district. We are part of the KCC EV600 scheme where *Connected Kerb* is installing over 600 Electric Vehicle Charging Points in council car parks. Nearly 100 of these are in the Folkestone & Hythe District. We have won a £2m Government grant to improve energy efficiency in more than 100 council houses; this will also create local jobs as the contracts for the work are expected to be placed locally. Otterpool Park will also contribute to our Environment agenda through tree planting schemes and a 20% Net Biodiversity Gain commitment.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hollingsbee for her commitment and also for the grants awarded to Stelling Minnis over the past two years.

## **7. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Reports had been received from Hardres & Stelling News (incl year-end accounts), Bossingham Pre-School, Upper Hardres Church and Upper Hardres, Bossingham and Stelling Minnis Gardeners Society.

The Chairman commented on how well put together the Hardres and Stelling Minnis News was and asked the current circulation: currently 270 copies.

These reports can be found in Appendix A

## **8. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENT – SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

The Chairman reminded everyone that the unveiling of the Queen's plaque is at 12noon outside the hall. Made possible due to a MADL grant via the Stelling Minnis Stores. Onto Bossingham hall for lunch to start at 1pm.

There will be an ariel photograph taken on the day to replicate the one taken 10 years ago which is to be framed and hung in Stelling Minnis Hall.

## **9. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LOCAL ORGANISATION REPORTS 2022**

#### **HARDRES AND STELLING NEWS REPORT FOR 2022**

Firstly, a big thank you to all who have written articles for inclusion in the Villages Community Magazine for without you there would not be a magazine. I know that many readers look forward to the regular contributions and the occasional letters from readers.

Contributions regularly include community news from County, District/City, and Parish Councils together with the two Parish Churches and a message from the Parish Priest; as well as those from SM Primary School Headteacher's, Bossingham Pre-School, History Group, Gardening Society, Helen the Vet, Johns Haffenden's Farmers notebook, Minnis Managers, Vivste quiz, thoughts from Steve Hardman, a brief weather report as well as information on the mobile library dates and tea & natter afternoon. With occasional articles from other clubs, societies and individuals these all go to make what I hope is an interesting and informative Community Magazine with something for everybody. Helen the Vet has now retired and her article in the April issue was her last after 14 years.

The magazine was entered into the National Parish Magazine of the Year competition and gained 24th place out of 330 entries in the A5 category for 2021.

The Children's front cover art competition has not been run since 2019 because of Covid restrictions. The 2020 front cover was a montage of previous winners and the 2021 was a lovely painting by Jenny Maxted from Stelling Minnis Art Group.

A big thank you to Bruce & Margaret Crawford and their band of delivery agents for getting the magazine to you; to Ann Day for handling the finances and selling all the advertising spaces, not forgetting Xinyang and Sijia at Stelling Minnis Stores for willingly continuing to allow some readers to collect their magazine from the shop. Advertising spaces for 2022 were reduced to 23 pages to allow for the increasing demands of the regular contributors and a limitation on magazine size placed by the printer of a total of 64 pages because of machinery capacity.

Any photos for the front cover should to be in Portrait format, please.

Nick Smith - Editor

## THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST PAUL UPPER HARDRES

### ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**Priest in Charge**

**Interim Priest:**

**Revd Louise Vincer from November 2020**

**Independent  
Examiner**

**Paul Wood Chartered Accountant**

#### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

##### Background

The PCC has the responsibility for assisting and working with the Parish Priest in promoting the mission statement of the church in the catchment area of the Parish. This includes the hamlet of Upper Hardres and the two villages of Bossingham and Stelling Minnis, including the Primary School. This catchment area is shared with the Parish of St. Mary's, Stelling, within the United Benefice of Chartham. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

Our Church Statement is "With God's grace, we will know and share the love of Christ". We endeavour to seek, feel, enjoy and spread this love within all our services and within the local community.

During 2021 church life suffered some disruption due to the pandemic.

##### Membership

During the year the following were members of the PCC:-

Priest/Chairman  
Churchwarden

Revd Louise Vincer  
Anne Barlow

Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Angela Hirst  
Ginny Hall  
Vacant (John Haffenden continuing as Book keeper  
but not as a member of the PCC)

Other Members

Ginny Hall  
Vanessa McDonald  
Victoria Schoen  
Stephen Thompson (until May 2021)

##### Church Officers

Safeguarding and DBS Officer  
Safeguarding and DBS Co-ordinator  
Vulnerable Adult Co-ordinator  
Disability Discrimination Officer

David Hall  
Ginny Hall  
Julia Hamlin  
Julia Hamlin

##### Ministry Team

During the year the following were members of the Ministry Team:-

Secretary

Anne Barlow

Other members

Ginny Hall  
Gabrielle Kent  
Angela Hirst  
Joan Hiron

Cindy Cook

### **Electoral Roll and Church Attendance**

The number registered on the Electoral Roll as at December 2021 was 34.

The official numbers' count for Sunday attendances, for the purpose of completing the Statistics for Mission for the Diocese averaged 33 per week in 2021; this was comprised of 28 adults and 5 children and young people. This figure excluded special services, including Christmas and Easter.

### **Review of the Year**

We are very grateful to all who have contributed to the content of Family Services during the year, the plays, the games, and visiting speakers; also to Louise, visiting clergy and Lay Reader Chris Robinson

The contribution made by those on the Prayer and Reading Rota is invaluable, thank you all very much.

### **Incumbent's Benefice report to February 2022**

Church life this year has been shaped by fluctuating covid restrictions, and a desire to continue to pray and work towards **God's vision** for the church in this benefice. Interim Ministry whilst being unsettling, has I hope, enabled the churches to find a way forward and learn to become more flexible, though many long for more stability. There is much to celebrate, and growth has happened in both parishes where risks have been taken. For example, outdoor services led to further outreach: at Upper Hardres through a season of lay led environmentally focused family services, and at Chartham in the reinstatement of monthly Family Praise Services and a new monthly *Family Time Together*.

Together we have continued to work out what a half time appointment feels like. Congregations are aware of the need for growth in lay leadership and there is an impact on the deanery when ministry support is needed for weddings and funerals.

It is disappointing that there were no applicants for the post of priest in charge when it was advertised after Christmas. Conversations will be held with Archdeacon Darren to agree the next steps. Everyone is encouraged to continue to pray for a suitable appointment.

I am grateful to the benefice warden team for their commitment to this chapter in benefice life; they continue to act as the Focus Group for the Interim Ministry and I regularly report fully to them and the diocese through meetings with Archdeacon Jo, and since October, Archdeacon Darren.

Three objectives continue to shape my work:

1. To develop benefice relationships between the three congregations/two parishes
2. To work towards healthy governance and operations
3. To enable growth in mission and ministry

#### **1. To develop benefice relationships between the three congregations/two parishes**

Benefice wardens meet regularly – meeting 16 times since November 2020. An editorial group was created in the autumn to work together on the Benefice Profile.

In June Steve Coneys led a morning with the PCCs to discuss **shared values**.

These are: Connecting with people; Openness to learning; Passion for seeking God's vision; Worship with wonder/awe, imagination and joy, (highlighted in green type in this report).



The geography of the benefice means that shared activities are difficult to plan. As well as promoting each other's events, Lent activities (Ash Weds service at Upper Hardres, and the Lent conversations at Chartham) demonstrate a continuing commitment.

A sustainable worship pattern remains a priority. Some positive conversations have begun since the easing of covid restrictions.

## **2. To work towards healthy governance and operations.**

**Financial sustainability** remains a priority for the benefice. There was a very encouraging response to the stewardship appeal at Chartham. A service in October for Upper Hardres with Stelling began to address financial sustainability as a parish and ideas are to be taken forward by the PCC. Pre-covid fundraising efforts are gradually restarting in all three churches including the monthly breakfasts and afternoon teas at Stelling.

At Chartham Cathy Arnold has held the office of Churchwarden on her own. Leadership is challenging and Cathy has led with dedication, skill and fortitude. It has been encouraging to see a wider involvement in church life eg new volunteers for baptism bookings and sides people, a Fabric group and a Communications group. Since January there has been renewed emphasis on seeking a second warden. The PCC at Chartham explored possible work on "St Mary's, Shaping the Future" with Bridgebuilders but this was not taken forward in 2021.

Work with Stelling **School** has developed since a change in church governorship.

## **3. To enable growth in mission and ministry**

Stelling School: Angela Hirst has begun to coordinate volunteers from the parish to lead fortnightly assemblies and other activities at school.

The Christingle service at Stelling involved a lot of work. It is hoped that the service at Christmas this year will be held in school to reach as many as possible. A summer visit to the church rather than at Harvest is also being explored.

There has been increased outreach through a variety of worship and activities in Chartham. A new Sunday morning group for young children *Live Wires* has begun. Through reflection and learning the church is growing in confidence and outreach.

## **Theological Reflection - seeking to be a harmonious family**

As we long for church growth there is regular talk of wanting young families to join the congregations. Our own family relationships will themselves have experienced huge pressures this year. Change is a natural part of family life and I hope church is a place where that life is well supported, giving us energy to reach out to all in our parishes.

The first letter to Timothy encourages us to give attention to our relationships within our personal families and the family of the church. The Letter gives us a domestic vision of the church in which members of the congregation are to show the same honour and respect for one another as they hold for members of their own families. This emphasis on respect within the church family is a powerful witness to the world

The weekend of 26 - 27 February was a particularly rich one in the benefice. The concert of *The Happy Prince* at Upper Hardres on 27<sup>th</sup> was a musical celebration of local talent and generosity and saw the new servery put to good use as the congregation offered hospitality to a full church. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> at Chartham 25 people joined in conversations taking forward the questions from the Bishop's Study Day in November 2021 "What kind of church do we want to be?" and "What are we going to do to make

that a reality". A key word to come from both those events was **harmonious**. When we seek to be harmonious, we recognise our diversity – our different voices – and our common life. This seems a fitting aspiration for each congregation in the benefice.

As we faithfully respond to the challenges of being the church today new priorities for ministry will be agreed in consultation with the Archdeacon. Please continue to support church leadership in practice as well as in prayer so that we will grow together as members of the household of God and together in our parishes sing a new song of God's redeeming love for the world.

*Rev Louise Vincer, March 2022*

## **PCC**

The PCC met in January, May, July and October and held the APCM on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Ministry Team**

The Ministry Team meets regularly and has responsibility for the content of the services, the family services in particular, and the updating of the Mission Statement. It acts under the authority of the PCC, reporting to it and obtaining ratification of various proposals.

## **Pastoral care**

Stelling and Upper Hardres congregations are together supporting members of the community where companionship and help are desired. Home visits are made where requested and with great caution to protect the individual from covid risk. Letters and telephone calls have been used to give support and comfort. Angela is still approved to take communion to homes if requested.

The Stelling breakfasts at Stelling Minnis Village Hall and joint afternoon teas have been held at Cherry Garden Farm. These continue to provide a good opportunity to invite people along for fellowship and support. Upper Hardres congregation members are involved in both these activities.

In a crisis the aim is that someone from the congregation well known to anyone in the situation (bereavement, illness or other distress) will make the first contact then others will help and support as needed. The parish network has been working well but we look for more opportunities to give support in the community. Both congregation members and other people in the community are being cared for in this way.

There is a note in the Village News letting the community know of contact names and telephone numbers for visits, help and support. Contacts with members of the community who may be more aware of people with needs – e.g. carers are important.

## **Flowers**

Very many thanks to everyone who helps to keep the church in such good order. Thank you too to Margaret Webb and her team of flower ladies. The flowers continue to be a delight, especially so on festival days and for special services.

## **Cleaning**

Not only is Ginny Hall our competent and conscientious PCC Secretary, she, along with Vanessa and Valerie regularly clean the church.

## **Fund-Raising**

Heritage Day raised £1,113.49 and the Safari Gardens weekend raised £923.30 for both Stelling and Upper Hardres. Sincere thanks to everyone involved.

## **Music**

The choir is currently kindly led by John Hursey. The members turn out in all weather for the fortnightly practice. The reward is beautiful singing with a real sense of a common unity. The joy for the choirmaster is the way members support the singing for the congregation - which this last year has been masked because of Covid rules.

### **Fabric and Churchyard**

The fabric of the church building is generally in good order. Noticeable work carried out is the feather boarding of the porch. The repair to the roof tiles is an ongoing problem. Repairs of slipped or missing tiles carried out as required.

Quinquennial minor repairs have been carried out as time permits.

Very many thanks to Vanessa who arranges for the churchyard to be cut for us on a regular basis with no cost to ourselves. Thanks also to Vanessa for the use of her farmyard for parking, especially for big events.

### **Bossingham Pre-school Managers report – by Anita**

This year has gone really well at Bossingham Preschool.

Since I was appointed as manager, the Pre-school has certainly flourished and grown. We now take children from 1 years of age, and it is a delight to see them grow from babbling babbies to independent happy, confident toddlers. I would like to thank the community, for all the praise for the changes we have worked hard to make to improve our setting. We would also like to thank everyone for their support in fundraising after we experienced significant damage to our garden following the storm earlier this year.

Our setting is currently full this academic year for all age groups and we are looking at the same from September onwards. It is fantastic to say, our increase in numbers has been through word of mouth within the community, requiring no advertising with the only exception of when we let the community know we were opening to children from 1 years of age. This however leaves us with a predicament of not having the space to fully meet the community's requirements. We are therefore looking into potentially expanding our building to include the outdoor decking area and therefore will need to do some big fundraising for this.

The children are thriving at Bossingham Pre-school, which is supported by our good OFSTED inspection back in November 2021. They are all amazing and embrace the activities and opportunities given to them fully. The children enjoy Little Music Stars sessions, singing and dancing around the room and some of the older children currently attend Forest school sessions held at the school. We aim to take the children on more walks around the local community as much as possible. Recently we have been learning about life cycles. We have planted our own food to grow and enjoy, we have watched caterpillars grow and turn into butterflies and are now awaiting our chicken eggs to hatch. The children are excited to learn how to look after them, whilst they grow and move to their forever home with one of our families.

We will be sad to see our school leavers move onto their next journey at big school however, we look forward to seeing what the next academic year brings.

**Gardeners Society - Nigel Fisher**

Upper Hardres, Bossingham & Stelling Minnis Gardeners' Society have resumed activities and held a very successful Daffodil and Spring Shows, and a plant sale. We are looking forward to having a full year of activities and would welcome any new members.

**APPENDIX B – see separate PDF document**

Draft