

**A CENTURY OF  
GRASS ROOTS DEMOCRACY  
IN  
WALBERTON  
1894 - 1994**

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## A CENTURY OF GRASS ROOTS DEMOCRACY IN WALBERTON

The year 1994 commemorates 100 years of Parish Councils throughout England and Wales. The LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT of 1894 changed a system of civil administration at parish level, controlled by the church, that had existed since Saxon times. [District Councils were created by the same Act but County Councils came into being in 1889]

Prior to 1894 the church called an annual meeting of all parishioners in order to decide on church rates to be raised and to elect church wardens who were responsible for collecting the rates for use in the upkeep of the church. The Poor Relief Act of 1601 also made the churchwardens responsible for the poor of the parish and gave them authority to appoint Overseers of the Poor and to raise a poor rate to which all householders, whether churchgoers or not, had to contribute. These meetings were known as Vestry Meetings as they were usually held in the church vestry, probably the only convenient room in a parish at that time.

There were usually two vestry meetings during the year, one solely to appoint churchwardens and the second, to which all inhabitants of the parish, including women, were entitled to attend, to appoint officers of the parish. These consisted of waywardens (surveyor of highways within the parish), overseers of the poor, parish constables and such other parish officers as might be required. Parish constables were responsible to the local magistrate (J.P.) for the upkeep of law and order within the parish. One of his main tasks was to escort vagrants back to their own parish so that their upkeep would not fall on the parish poor law rate.

### **Walberton prior to 1894**

#### **Parish constables**

It is of interest to note that some of the names mentioned in the election of parish constables in Walberton are familiar to many of us in the village today. At a vestry meeting of 4th March 1852 the following were nominated: William Searle (farmer), James Suter (carpenter), Henry Farnden (baker), James Sheppard (butcher), William Bateman (wheelwright) and Henry Hatcher (blacksmith). The last appointment of a parish constable in Walberton was made at a Vestry meeting on 17th February 1871 when the following sought appointment: Lester James (farm bailiff), James Westbrook (carpenter) and Solomon Short Jnr (miller). [n.b. During the 1870s these parish duties were assumed by the new County Regular Police Force]

### Highways

As a requirement under the Highways and Locomotives Act of 1878, the Vestry was required to inform the County which roads within their parish should be considered main roads. The decision taken was:-

- "1) That part of the Brighton to Portsmouth road as runs through the parish.*
  - 2). The road running from Slindon Common towards Barnham railway station.*
  - 3) The road leading from Slindon Common past the Royal Oak to Yapton.*
- Also, that on the appointment of a County surveyor (not yet made) the waywarden shall communicate to him the above opinions."*

[It would appear that the roads had not then been named]

**1882** By the Divided Parishes Act of that year, Ford Lane and North End (Yapton) were annexed from Walberton to Yapton Parish with six houses and a population of 37.

**1890** A vestry meeting was held on 6th June to ask consent of the parish to the erection of telegraph poles with necessary wires and stays within the boundaries thereof in order to obtain telegraphic communication for the parishioners. The meeting was held at 11 am and only three persons attended - the Rev. W.H. Irvine, Mr M.E. Ellis, churchwarden, and Mr T. Short, the Surveyor of the highways. They decided unanimously to give consent on behalf of the population and so telegraph came to Walberton. [This was in advance of the benefits of a water supply, main drainage, gas or electricity. However a request for telephones in the village was not made until 1908.] At this time the churchwardens were - Mr E.M. Ellis and Mr H. Clement; Surveyor of highways - Mr T. Short; Overseers of the poor - Mr R. Coote and Mr J. Bell.

**1892** Mr T Short was re-elected Surveyor of Highways at a salary of £8.10.0. p.a. Col. King and Mr A.W.F. Farnden were elected Overseers of the poor.

**1893** Mr T. Short was granted a rise in salary to £10 p.a.

**1894** A Vestry was held on the 24th March. This is the first meeting of which there is any mention of Col. C.P. Henty and the last meeting at which parish officers were appointed. Mr A. Farnden and Mr A. Booker became the last overseers of the poor to be elected by the Vestry and Mr T. Short the last waywarden.

Subsequent Vestry meetings make no mention of their loss of powers to the new Parish Council

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE 1894 - 1994

Walberton was somewhat different in 1894. Although the parish boundary included the Fontwell area (then known as West Walberton) there were no buildings in Fontwell other than the "Balls Hut" (after to become The Fontwell public house and subsequently demolished) originally a toll keeper's cottage, and two or three cottages. Binsted was a parish in its own right. Under the Act all parishes with a population of 300 or more were to have a Parish Council whilst smaller parishes would have a Parish Meeting (being an annual meeting of parishioners): Binsted came into this category. In 1933 W.Sussex County Council suggested that Binsted be joined with Tortington to form one parish. Binsted rejected this proposal and remained a Parish Meeting until 1943 when most of the parish was joined with Walberton leaving a small area, mostly farmland, to be included in Tortington. As the result of a government review of parish boundaries in 1985, Tortington parish was divided between Arundel and Walberton and so the whole of the Binsted area became part of Walberton Parish.

Throughout the country there was considerable resentment on the part of the ecclesiastical authorities at being stripped of their powers. This resentment continued for some years and is illustrated by events in Walberton in 1910 relating to the building of the Parish Hall (site now occupied by 'Little Croft'). The trust deed in relation to the new parish hall stated *"But so nevertheless in all respects that nothing done or capable of being done under these presents shall make a trust estate a charity of any kind other than an Ecclesiastical charity nor give the Parish Council or any other secular body any concern therewith."* This paragraph legally prevented any help being given by the Parish Council in 1983 to preserve the parish hall when it had fallen into disrepair leading to its demolition. However, the passing of the 1894 Act was generally welcomed by the population and in Walberton its worthy residents applied their minds to accepting their new responsibilities.

At the time of the 1894 Act the population of Walberton Parish was 628 (1891 census). It contained a thriving business community listed as follows:

Charles Andrews - Trainer [Horses?]  
James Bell - Grocer/Draper  
Henry Bennett - Publican (Balls Hut)  
Alan & Edward Booker - Builders  
William Booker - Dairy Farmer  
Allen Bowley - Carrier & Coal Merchant (also Fly proprietor)  
Thomas Burch - Thatcher  
Mrs Cate - Farmer

cont.

Charles Crouch - Farmer (Todhurst Farm)  
Matilda Ellis & Son - Brewers and Maltsters  
Thomas Ewens - Farmer  
Alfred Farnden - Farmer  
Harry Hartley - Baker & Fruit Grower  
Harry Hatcher - Blacksmith  
John Humphrey - Grocer/Draper  
William Johnson - Publican (Holly Tree)  
Harry Peskett - Boot & Shoe Maker also Postmaster  
Mark Luxford - Miller & Farmer  
William Sergant - Carpenter & Undertaker  
Louisa Shipton - Laundress  
Samuel Shipton - Carrier  
Solomon Short - Farmer  
Henry Smith - Pig Dealer  
James Toop - Farmer (Choller Farm)

Other notables listed:

Rev. Wm. Henry Irvine - Vicar  
Major Samuel Davenport of Walberton House  
Col. Charles Henty of Avisford Park  
Madame Belloc of Hill House (Slindon)

## THE FIRST PARISH COUNCIL

The Local Government Act of 1894 received the Royal assent (Queen Victoria) on 5th March, to come into effect on 17th December. The Act required that every parish in England and Wales must hold a meeting on the 4th December 1894, the sole duty of the meeting being to elect the new Parish Council. If more than the required number were nominated than the election would proceed by a show of hands. All adults, male or female, married or single were eligible for election whether elector or non-elect, as long as they had resided within the parish for 12 months or within 3miles of it. This was unique in being the first time that women had been given a vote or were eligible to accept office at any level of government.

Those elected were to come into office on 13th December on which date the first meeting was required to be held. They were to hold office until March 1896 after which elections would be held annually. At the meeting on 4th December 1894 the following were elected: Allan Booker, Allan Coote, Charles Crouch, Harry Hartley, Harry Hatcher, Col. Charles Henty, William Luxford, Solomon Short and James Toop. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Senior Overseer, Alfred Farnden. There were 35 members of the parish present and a Lady Anson was the only female attending. The first meeting under the new Act then came to a close.

## Parish Council Meetings & Parish Meetings

Under the new Act the parish council was committed to hold a minimum of four meetings per year, these meetings to be confined to the elected councillors; the general public attending only as observers and able to take no part in the proceedings. In addition to these meetings the Chairman of the parish council was required to call an annual parish meeting within 7 days of the 25th March each year. In the early years of the new Act elections to the parish council were made at that meeting as elections were held annually. [Annual elections ceased in 1919 and became 3 yearly. The Local Government Act of 1972 extended the term to 4 years] The annual parish meeting is an open meeting at which all electors in the parish are entitled to attend and take part. Additional open parish meetings may be called when deemed necessary so that the whole community can make their opinions known when controversial subjects arise.

### THE CHRONICLES OF WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL 1894 - 1994

The following items from Parish Council and Parish Meeting minutes, and other sources, of the past 100 years may be of interest. Problems facing our predecessors in office are still often debated today - a clear case of history repeating itself.

**17.12.1894** First meeting of the Parish Council - in Walberton School  
Col. Charles Henty was elected Chairman, James Toop elected Vice Chairman and E.E.Mitchell (assistant overseer) was appointed Clerk at a salary of £4 p.a. It was agreed that the sum of 2s.6d would be paid to the school managers to cover cost of lighting and cleaning when the school was used by the council. The council decided to set a precept of £5 for the year, this being their anticipated expenditure for the following year and amounted to two thirds of a penny per head of the village population - old coinage. No other business was transacted.

**19.4.1895** The following resolution was put and carried: *"That considering the present disgraceful state of the village pond, this council do forthwith take steps to have the same properly cleaned out, to erect a penstock and to have the outlet on the south side bricked up and to ask for a committee".*

**15.10.1895** Precept increase to £35.

**17.7.1896** The council were concerned at the state of the footpath and the bridge to Binsted. The pond fence was to be repaired and the gate fastened.

5.10.1897 Committee decided to inspect the village pond and met at the pond on the 29th. The clerk reports: "It was thought that if a course of bricks was taken off the outlet it would have the effect of decreasing the depth of the water so as to prevent the overflow into the road and adjoining meadow. Impossible to maintain present banks. Pond too high and water would not be prevented from encroaching on the roadway." Eastergate Lane was continually flooded by the pond and the councillors agreed that Mr Booker be asked to carry out the work.

[At this time Barnham Lane was an unmade road and the water from the pond ran across the road and into the waterway that flows through the meadows at the rear of what are now Oaktree Cottages. The road was continually flooded and had to be forded. There was a footbridge across the stream in Barnham Lane.]

1898 The parish council resolved that "The Clerk do write to the persons who have fetched water from the pond, being out-parishioners - and solicit a subscription towards the expenses connected with the pond". [There was no water supply in the village at that time and water was drawn from private wells.]

1901 Petition received from parishioners for allotments to be provided - no action. Arrangements were made for the distribution of the annual income from the ELEEMOSYNARY Charity (for persons living on alms) which amounted to ten shillings.

1903 The parish council are to be school managers (four were appointed) along with the foundation managers appointed by the Parochial Church Council [The parish council representation on the school managers was reduced to two under the Education Act of 1945 when two managers were appointed by the Education Authority. The parish council's representation was subsequently reduced to one when parents and teachers were allowed one representative each. At this time school managers changed name to school governors.]

During this year a gas main was laid from the Royal Oak to Blacksmiths Corner and into the village but no street gas lights were installed.

Under the Motor Car Act of 1903 danger signs were installed at Tye Lane and Barnham Lane [It is doubtful whether it applied to many villagers at that time, However, since then the danger from motor traffic through the village has multiplied and today it is one of our main problems.]

1905 The pond fence was repaired by Mr Booker.

The council minutes report that "*There was an objection to the increase in the cost of education*" - no mention being made of who made the objection or to whom.

The council were concerned at the state of the pound and could find no evidence of ownership. [The village pound, or pinfold, has probably existed since medieval times. It was the duty of the parish constable to confine stray animals therein until claimed by the owner.]

On 26th October at a meeting held at Yew Tree House , the Walberton Bonfire Society was formed. Subsequent meetings were held in the harness room of Walberton House. It was decided to hold a bonfire night on 6th November and Mr Oliver offered to obtain the services of a brass band (8 members) at a cost of 35 shillings. A case of fireworks to be bought at a cost of 3 guineas and 70 torches at sixpence each. The Slindon Fire Brigade would be asked to attend. The accounts showed receipts of £6.19.6. and an expenditure of £6.4.2. [There is no record of further bonfire displays until 1957.]

1906 Council again concerned at state of pond. It was suggested "That water in Eastergate Lane be diverted by some rough slabs being fixed across the ditch and so ease the flow of water from the pond". It was decided to run out the water at the penstock and remove mud from the pond. Mr Burch was paid £6.10.0. for the work. The defective posts and rails in the pond were also repaired.

1908 The council made a request to the Post Office for a telephone service in the village.

1909 The council noted that 'Labour Certificates' were to be issued to boys at 13 years of age.

The council passed a resolution that "The village be supplied with good water from a main source". This resulted from a survey made by Dr Cameron of the Ministry of Health who took samples of water from 21 wells in the parish. The report received gave concern over the sanitary conditions prevailing in Walberton. The parish council debated the cost of laying mains etc to bring piped water into the village. A parish meeting was called to resolve the issue.

1910 Water mains were laid by the Bognor Water Company and for the first time water was 'on tap'. [Most of the wells have since been filled in although the well in the playing fields was not filled until 1947]

1911 A request was made to the County Council for traffic signs to be installed on the approaches to the school. Request refused.

A parish council meeting was called on 28th March and the minutes are recorded as follows: 'As the parish clerk and Mr G.W. Tanner were the only persons present, no business was transacted'.

Coronation of George V: A Parish Meeting was called on 16 May 'To consider the best means of commemorating the coronation of King George V. Col. Henty proposed 'That the inhabitants of Walberton and Binsted be entertained on the day of the coronation' and Mr J. Liddle proposed 'That if funds allow, a clock be presented to the villages, to be attached to the bells of Walberton Church'. [It is not recorded whether the proposed celebrations were held but we do know that the clock never appeared].

No further Parish Meetings were held until after the Great War 1914 - 18. There were no meetings of the parish council between April 1914 and March 1917.

1917 The parish council met in March 1917 to consider providing allotments. In June an agreement was drawn up between Frederick and Archibald Palmer of Choller Farm and Walberton Parish Council for the hire of one acre of Sheepwash Field for use as allotments at a rent of £2 per annum. A charge of 15 shillings was made for ploughing the land which was let by the council at sixpence per rod. [The land forming the allotments can still be seen. It runs from Eastergate Lane (behind the half dozen houses after the pond) in a narrow strip across to Barnham Lane.] The precept for the year was set at £5.

1918 Joseph Liddle sells the whole area known as Walberton Green to Henry Humphrey (grocer of Walberton) and the small area of land to the south (approach to what is now known as Burch Grove) to Charles Burch.

1919 A parish meeting was called *'to consider the method by which the villagers of Walberton and Binsted should celebrate the signing of the peace'*. The following resolutions were passed unanimously: *'That the men who had been serving in the war be entertained'* and *'that children up to 14 be entertained to tea'*.

A printed expression of thanks to be presented to the returning men and that they would be entertained to dinner. It was estimated that the dinner would cost a maximum of five shillings each [a generous sum then]. There were to be sports for the children, a procession and a baby competition. The sum of £2. would be set aside for purchase of sweets for the children. One barrel of ale (36 gallons) would be provided and Mr Fairweather promised to supplement this if proved insufficient. Mr Burch was to have charge of the ale and none was to be distributed before 8 pm. [No doubt a great celebration: however, eleven men of Walberton did not return from the battlefields.]

In 1919 the annual elections to the parish council held by a show of hands at the parish meeting ceased. Elections were then held three yearly by ballot.

1920 Application was made by Mr H. Humphrey to be allowed to 'make up' the fence to his meadow (now the village green). There was no objection. Ten houses were erected by Westhampnett District Council (Oak Tree Cottages). The parish council were annoyed that this was two more than had been asked for and informed the District Council that no more should be built. [The District Council took little notice as a further eighteen were added during the next few years.]

1921 Solomon Short was elected Chairman and the precept was set at £5.

1922 Parish council again make request for warning signs on approach to the school. Request refused by County Council.

1925 The council debated whether to adopt the Lighting Act and have street gas lamps installed at eight locations in the village. It was decided to call a parish meeting. The meeting was held on 2nd July and 80 persons were present. The chair was taken by Solomon Short, the chairman of the council. The business of the meeting was 'To consider the advisability of adopting the Lighting Act and to ask the Arundel Gas Company to install six lamps'. Mr Jameson proposed 'that the Lighting Act be not adopted'. This was carried by a large majority. No gas lamps were installed.

Again the pond was a problem. Tenders were called for cleaning out the pond. Mud was dumped on Humphrey's meadow (now the Green). Surrey Trout Farm at Haslemere offered fish for restocking at a cost of £1.1.5. Mr Overington would find room in his pit at Eastergate for the pond mud and Mr Hoyley carted ten loads of mud to the pit at a cost of two shillings per load.

It was proposed that the village pound be retained as a rubbish deposit. This proposition was carried. [Household rubbish was subsequently dumped in the pound and removed periodically until a regular service of house to house collection by the District Council started in 1936.]

1926 The council made application to the County Council for a speed limit to be imposed through the village. Request refused.

Mr C.T. Aylwins made application to the council to wash his sheep in the pond and offered £1 for the privilege.

1927 The first proposal was made by the council to purchase land from Avisford Park to create a recreation ground for the village. Mr F. Shippam of Potwell House offered to purchase and hold for one year a portion of Avisford Park so that the ground might be acquired by the parish council. His offer was accepted.

A Mr Upton was in trouble with the council for dumping a load of dockweeds in the pond. Charles Burch made application to Westhampnett District Council for the erection of a building (a petrol garage) on his part of the Green. The parish council objected and the application was refused.

1928 A parish meeting was called on 7th January *'to obtain the consent of the electors to enable the parish council to purchase a playing field'*. The electors agreed to the proposal but the parish council were unable to acquire the land before the end of September of that year [probably after the harvest.] Grants of £10 from the National Fields Association and £40 from the Carnegie Trust were received. The council negotiated a loan of £400 from the Public Works Loan Board. The United Services Fund gave £21.6.0. for the cost of erecting swings (dealt with through the local branch of the British Legion) and a further grant of £50 was given by the National Playing Fields Association for the lay out of cricket and football pitches. The £350. advanced by Mr F. Shippam was repaid.

The agreement for the purchase of the land was between Cyril Edmund Stern of Farnborough, Kent (the owner) and Walberton Parish Council at a cost of £350. The land, extending to 5 acres, 2 rods and 22 perches was part of the Avisford Park Estate and was in the tenancy of Charles Grinstead (tenant farmer). The land was to be fenced by the Parish Council. The agreement for the purchase was negotiated by Solomon Short (chairman) and council members Frank Parker and Alan Booker. [On completion a low brick wall surmounted by iron railings was built on the boundary with the Street with ten foot wide iron gates at the access.]

During the same year Mr Henry Humphrey informed the council that he was prepared to sell the portion of Walberton Green that he owned to the council for £50 and invited an offer for the smaller part adjacent to the pond. The council did not take up the offer.

1929 The council decided that the Pond Committee was unnecessary.

1930 The council made enquiries of Chichester City Council regarding a possible supply of electric power to Walberton.

1931 Further trouble with the pond and the disposal of mud.

Mr Winter of Shoreham asked permission of the council to sell ice cream twice weekly from the green by the pond. The council decided that it had no jurisdiction over the land. Mr Burch offered to sell the portion of the green which he had purchased in 1918. The council decided that 'the offer be not entertained'.

In December of this year the council were concerned with 'unlawful acts by youths'. However, the records do not reveal what these unlawful acts were or the result of the discussion. No doubt the local bobby would have been informed and the matter dealt with by a 'clip round the ear'.

Complaints received of 'a bad smell at the pond'. It was decided that the pond should again be cleared of rubbish. [It was apparently common practice to dump rubbish either in the pound or the pond - whichever was the most convenient.

After the completion of the playing field a public lavatory had been built and a person was paid one shilling per week to empty the pail (no main drainage). The council minutes record 'it is not necessary to empty the pail once a week in winter' and so expenditure was reduced. The precept for the year was only £15.

1934 The council informed that electric lighting is to be installed.

1935 Speed limit signs of 30 mph are installed in Barnham Lane and into the village under the Road Traffic Act, 1935. [First introduction of speed limits.]

Further problems with rubbish dumped in pond.

The Jubilee Arch was erected at the entrance to Humphreys' meadow (used as the village green) to commemorate the silver jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. It was the gift of the Shippam family who then lived at Potwell Copse.

1936 The question was raised as to what rights, if any, the public had with regard to the village green and if any rights existed who was the guardian of such rights. The question was apparently never answered. At that time the whole of the Walberton Green area was in private ownership.

House refuse was to be collected thus alleviating the problem of centuries in relation to the pound and the pond

The council debated the problem of fouling of the footpath through the village by cattle. There was also concern about the 'delapidated bank of the pond'.

1937 The council held a meeting with Mr Humphreys 'to discuss the advantages of council control of the green'.

1938 In reply to a question from W. Sussex County Council the parish council stated that the playing field was the only property in parish council ownership.

New lavatories were built in the playing fields and it was proposed that a schoolboy be paid sixpence per week to empty the buckets and clean the toilets. He was to be paid quarterly by cheque. [n.b. This was only half the sum being paid in 1932.]

Mr Alan Booker resigned from the council having served continuously from the first elections in 1894 - a total service to the parish of 44 years.

1939 Precept set at £75.

July: It was agreed that members of the council would remove the bulbs from the street lamps in the event of war being declared. The police asked that the lamps be removed completely.

War with Germany was declared on 3rd September.

As during W.W.I. the parish council had few meetings and nothing of note was undertaken. Parishioners were fully occupied in other matters.

1940 Precept set at £30.

1943 It was agreed that the pond banks needed repair and a 30 foot concrete wall should be built to prevent the pond overflowing on the small area of the green. At that time the council did not own the green and it was decided to leave the matter until after the war.

In March the playing field wall was damaged by an RAF plane from Tangmere. There is no record of what actually happened but the repair to the wall cost only £3.9.0.

1947 Chairman: Mr W.T. Davies

The playing fields to be grazed during the winter months.

The precept was set at £75 although the estimated expenditure for the year was £150.

The old well in the playing fields was at last filled in.

To support the national economy drive it was agreed that two street lights only would be lit.

1948 In January a petition signed by 67 residents was presented to the council asking that street lamps at Tye Lane and Bell's corner be lit for the rest of the winter. The council decided to have all lamps lit (18 street lamps).

A War Memorial Committee was formed. They decided that a tablet recording the names of those who had not returned be installed in the church. The tablet is on the N. wall of the N. Aisle and contains 10 names. The lych gate to the church was built as part of the memorial and paid for by public subscription.

The penstock and the adjacent bank of the pond was repaired by Toynbee's at a cost of £49.5.0. This was paid for by a sale of surplus Auxilliary Fire Service equipment, not from council funds.

The District Council (now Chichester Rural District Council) asked the parish council to suggest names for the three council housing estates now in the parish. Suggested names, which were accepted, being Oaktree cottages, Barnfield cottages (Fontwell) and Lake or Shipley cottages (Lake Lane, now in Barnham Parish).

1949 W.T. Davies resigns as clerk. He had served the council as Councillor, Chairman and Clerk for 30 years.

Mr R.N. Wyatt was elected Chairman and Mr Brimacombe clerk.

The council debated the prospect of providing a playing field for the Fontwell area.

The problems relating to the village green were debated regarding ownership and grass cutting etc. It was later reported to the council that the area of Walberton Green was being sold by the owner Mrs Hinton (daughter of John Humphreys). The land was sold to James Hodgkins of Felpham who later sold the whole area to James Dean, builder of Fontwell, in 1951.

Severe flooding problem in Barnham Lane.

A telephone box was installed at the entrance to the playing field.

Several lamps were damaged by village youths. The offenders were ascertained and paid for the damage caused.

Oaktree cottages were updated and connected to a new sewage pit recently constructed to serve the new housing estate in Pound Road and Homefield Crescent.

The council debated the ownership of the pound and its future.

A request was made to the county council for a 30 mph speed limit from Blacksmith's Corner to the Royal Oak. Refused. [many subsequent requests have been made for a speed limit for the whole of Yapton Lane. To date, all have been refused.]

1950 The parish council considered their possible contribution on behalf of the village in the light of the Festival of Britain celebrations planned for 1951. They agreed that efforts should be made to purchase the village green and to provide a playing field at West Walberton (Fontwell). [The proposed purchase of the village green was pursued but the playing field at Fontwell never materialised.]

The chairman of the council reported that a gift of soap had been received from the Australian Red Cross. The gift was divided between the Walberton and Fontwell Women's Institutes who undertook distribution.

The WSCC informed the council that they intended to use the village pound for the storage of road mending tools.

During the summer of the year a circus visited the village green and paid £4 for its use.

1951 A special meeting was held at the playing fields where it was decided that 'preliminary steps be taken to provide a pavilion'. A Pavilion Committee was formed. In July Arthur Dean offered to sell part of Walberton Green to the parish council for £50 : that piece between Eastergate and West Walberton Lanes and the small triangle to the east of the pond. The offer was accepted. This was the same price that had been on offer in 1928. Now the parish council really owned the village green.

On completion of the purchase of the village green , the old penstock was removed and a sluice built to maintain a level of water in the pond and take the overflow into the culvert under Barnham Lane.

1952 The Pavilion Committee estimated that the cost of building a pavilion in the playing fields would amount to £246. The council decided to proceed with the project and donated the sum of £50, the rest to be raised from public subscription. The building was erected by voluntary labour from the villagers. The building, of solid construction (not timber) , comprised changing rooms and toilets. [completed 1955]

Mrs Brimacombe, who lived in West Walberton Lane, opposite the green and pond, received the council's permission to introduce two pairs of mallard ducks to the pond.

Councillor Brig. H.R. Hall becomes the voluntary Hon. clerk to the council.

As a result of allegations from certain members of the public relating to the election of this year, the following resolution was carried: 'that the Parish Council unanimously deplors any politics entering into Parish Council elections'.

A public meeting was held in the Parish Hall to consider village celebrations in relation to the coronation (June 1953). The council agreed to nominate four members to a Coronation Committee. At a following council meeting *"it was decided not to make a substantial grant from the council funds for the parish coronation celebrations which it was considered should be financed by voluntary subscriptions"*. The council granted £10 only.

A letter was received from the Fontwell Coronation Committee asking for a grant. The council suggested to them that they should apply to the Walberton Coronation Committee for a share of the £10 already granted by the council.

There are no further references to the coronation in council records except to say that a surplus of £27 was given to the Pavilion Fund and that there were some coronation mugs remaining.

1953 Mr P.H. Lygo-Baker (school headmaster) elected chairman.

Controversy raged during the year over whether games should be allowed on the playing fields on Sundays, following the Walberton Cricket Club's application for same. After much discussion it was decided to hold a referendum with a polling form for every person on the electoral roll.

There were suggestions that organised games should be confined to afternoons but the chairman said *"It is a matter of principle whether to keep the Sabbath or not and mornings or afternoons had nothing to do with it"*. A councillor reported that he had seen a game of football taking place on the previous Sunday. The chairman said *"If the culprit could be ascertained he would be dealt with"*.

The referendum was held on 23rd June between 6 and 9 p.m. in the school.

The result was: FOR Sunday games (cricket) 311 AGAINST 63.

In October of the year the allotments were given up.

It was thought that in view of the complexity of the affairs of the council and the need for technical knowledge the time for a voluntary Honorary Clerk had passed. Brigadier Hall (acting as clerk) pointed out that being a councillor and clerk had other disadvantages. The individual owed loyalty to his chairman but it was also his duty to voice his own opinions as a representative of the electors. It was agreed that an independent person be appointed and paid for the job.

1954 First mention of planning applications being considered by the council. A request was made of Chichester Rural District Council to inform the parish council of all applications within the parish.

A request was made for a police constable to be assigned to the village. The request was refused on the grounds of shortage of manpower and no accommodation being available in the village.

A report was received by the council of the possibility of main drainage being installed through the village.

The clerk's salary increased to £21 p.a.

Request was made of the Highway Authority for a pedestrian crossing to be installed at Fontwell. The request was refused. The subject of a playing field for Fontwell children was again debated.

1955 Still no main drainage in Walberton.

Rubbish and old iron had been dumped on the village green and the council arranged for its removal.

The council asked the Rural District Council to upgrade the cottages to the standard of the new estate at Homefield Crescent.

North Pound was under construction and by the end of the year the playing fields pavilion was finally completed.

**1956** The cricket club and the football club were dissatisfied with the playing field layout. The National Playing Fields Association advised the council that it was possible to have both a cricket pitch and football pitch on the ground. The cricket club felt that this would be unsatisfactory. The council explored the possibility of purchasing extra ground from Mr Tupper (farmer) but this would mean raising a loan to meet the cost. The council decided 'not to burden the rates with any further expenditure'.

It was ascertained by the council that there is no common land in the village.

The council decided to appoint three standing committees: General Purposes, Playing Fields and Finance.

The condition of public footpaths was a problem.

**1957** The willow trees were planted by the pond after an agreement between the council and the two frontagers.

The council made objection to any further development in the village. A headline in the Bognor Regis Post of 6th July reads: *"We don't want a dormitory town"* - attributed to Brigadier Hall.

Maple Parade and Maple Road were built across the old cricket ground altering the route of the Street. The proposed large scale development for the eastern end of Walberton by the District Council over a period of 20 years was later abandoned

There was a bonfire on the green on November 5th.

**1958** .The parish council clerk (Mr Cutts) resigns without notice: Mr P. Cobb is appointed.

Subsequent to the resignation of Mrs Ramsford from the council it was unanimously resolved that Lord Woolton be invited to fill the vacancy. Lord Woolton accepted the co-option.

Council concerned during the year with many problems, such as flooding, cess pits, footpaths, opposition to large scale development by the District Council, problems with the village pond etc.

**1959** A Special Meeting was held on 22nd January to discuss the proposal that the Royal Naval Air Station at Ford become an Open Prison. The council resolved to object and to support Climping parish council in their opposition to the plan.

Mr Lygo Baker, headmaster of the school, asked the council to take action to prevent the District Council emptying the school cesspit during school hours for obvious reasons. He also complained that an

unpleasant nuisance was caused by the the siting of a silage store almost adjacent to the school canteen.

Mr A. W. Price appointed clerk at a salary of £26 p.a.

**1960** Main drainage being installed throughout the village.

By-laws are written and approved by parliament for control of village greens and playing fields etc. Maximum penalty £5 to take effect from 1st February 1961.

At the annual parish meeting (130 present) the chief topic discussed was the main drainage system being installed.

The clerk's salary was increased to £40 p.a.

The entrance to the playing field was laid out as a car parking area at a cost of £5.

A new estate was under construction near the playing fields - Prime Close and Henty Close.

Fireworks display on the village green.

1961 Lord Woolton declines the chairmanship and Mr Poland is elected.

Maple Road is adopted by the County Council.

Connection to main drainage expected by the end of the year.

The council decides that permission will not be granted for a bonfire and fireworks on the village green.

1962 Instructions are given to the clerk to write to the RSPCA and seek assistance in reducing the number of ducks on the village pond.

A special meeting was called regarding the playing of football on Sunday 15th April and the unauthorised use of the playing field.

In July it was reported that the fish in the pond were dying due to pollution of the water.

The council decided to drain the pond and remove mud and debris and build an island.

The cleaning of the pond was completed in September. Mrs Towell offered a willow tree to be planted on the island. The pond was restocked with fish.

1963 The willow was planted on the island and the number of ducks reduced by the RSPCA.

The new village school was under construction.

Mr Brimacombe (husband of the lady who introduced the ducks) asks that the number of ducks be again reduced. Assistance was again rendered by the RSPCA.

In September a public meeting was held to investigate the possibility of acquiring the old school premises for use as a village community centre. Mr Lygo-Baker proposes 'that this is not a practical suggestion'. No further action taken.

1965 Mr John Mills elected chairman. Bi-monthly meetings are suggested resulting in a split vote. Meetings remained quarterly.

1966 Long Mead and Nash Way completed and named.

1967 The first village flower show was held in the parish hall.

Mr Poland elected chairman on a majority vote.

The village green is provisionally registered under the The Commons Registration Act.

Mr Price resigns as clerk after 8 years: Mr R.O. Nettleton appointed.

1968 The council received complaints relating to flooding of roads from the pond. Playing field gates are missing. The chairman, Mr Poland, reported that he had called at the scrapdealer's yard who had denied receiving them. [They were never recovered or replaced.]

Concern regarding the cottages next door to the Holly Tree which were becoming derelict and vermin infested. The brewers, owners of the cottages, were asked to abate the nuisance. They later replied that they intended to demolish the cottages.

The Walberton Horticultural Society holds its first show on the village green on 3rd August. Parish council make no charge for use of the green.

A precept was asked for equal to a two penny rate (old coinage).

Lamp posts continually damaged by 'hooligans'. Police asked to help.

Footpaths in the parish to be signposted by the WSCC.

The council were concerned, having received complaints about the partly derelict thatched cottage by the green. [The cottage, built in 1763, known as 'Still Here' is still there, but was re-roofed with tiles to prevent further deterioration. It is still unoccupied.]

The clerk, Mr Nettleton resigns and a Mr Jordan is appointed.

The children's playground is to be equipped with a revolving platform, a see-saw and a horizontal ladder at a cost of £246.

The council funds held a balance of £161 at the end of the financial year.

Council decided that *"In order to keep the parish rate at the level of 2 pence, street lighting would have to be curtailed.*

The new village school is held as a model of modern school building and 30 European Education Officials visit the school.

A public meeting was held in October to settle a controversy over siting of the new playing equipment. Mrs Bailey asked why there were no women on the council. No reply is recorded.

The council debate the problem of traffic hazards in the village.

Mr Poland asked why the River Board (now National Rivers Authority) should insist on a seven and sixpence fishing fee when they do not accept liability for flood prevention at the pond. It was suggested that the matter be deferred until the question of it being a private pond was investigated.

1969 Precept has now risen to £885. Clerk's salary increased to £100 p.a.

Dairy Lane is surfaced for the first time.

Council concerned with traffic hazards at the Royal Oak junction and are to take the matter up with the county council.

The chairman, Mr George Drummond reported that a lady had been co-opted onto the parish council.

Heavy traffic diverted by the building of the new bridge at Littlehampton causes problems along Yapton Lane and through the village.

Arundel by-pass discussed. Unlikely to start before 1971 and completed before 1973.

Rural District Council's plan to develop the land adjacent to the Dower House causes consternation.

Brigadier Hall resigns after many years of service as a parish councillor, district councillor and parish clerk.

Council asks the District Council to consider modernising council houses in the parish. Many do not have bathrooms or inside toilet facilities.

Number of pupils at village school greatly increased necessitating extra classrooms.

The council notifies its concern about the A27 at Fontwell. There had been three fatal accidents. Police are asked to assist the council in its representation to the Highway Authority.

Council informed by the Water Board that a licence was necessary to fish in the village pond.

Highway Authority asked to impose a 30 mph speed limit on Yapton Lane. Request refused.

Preservation order placed on the cottages next to the Holly Tree.

Planning committee formed in order to deal with the increasing number of applications.

**1970** The concrete kerbing round the pond, as suggested in 1943, was completed by Messrs Isted at a cost of £38.18.0.

Friary Meux, owners of the Holly Tree, make application to develop the land at the rear. The council objected to the application.

The need to reduce the number of ducks on the pond was debated.

Members of the council attended County Hall and put forward the village's objections to the development proposed for the land near the Dower House. The C.C. gave an undertaking that the parish council will be fully consulted should the Housing Minister uphold the County Council's appeal against refusal.

Mr Jordan, the clerk, resigns and Cllr Price's offer to carry out the duties in an honorary capacity was accepted.

Application for a street light to be installed outside the guide hut in Eastergate Lane. [A flint built small hall now converted to residential use and named 'Mallards']

It is proposed that the council enter Walberton in the Best Kept Village Competition.

Introduction of the Scouting Movement into the village. A request was received from the Secretary of the Scouting Movement for consideration for the erection of a Scout H.Q. on the playing fields.

The county council has asked parishes to consider whether present parish boundaries need changing to bring into line with present day needs.

It was reported that income from the sale of the old school would go to the church.  
Controversy over siting of new swings in the playing fields.

Bus service withdrawn on Sundays.

A request that the ban on Sunday football be lifted. The council refused to lift the ban.  
Mr Peter Burch offered at no cost to the parish to erect a brick build shelter to replace the wooden bus shelter at the green. The offer was accepted with thanks. The offer included a gift of the land.

The council made a donation of £21 to the newly formed Scouts troop.  
Decimal coinage is introduced.

*Minutes: "In the event of Tortington Parish being dissolved, agreement has been reached between Ford and Walberton Parish Councils as to the proposed new boundary between the respective parishes. The decision of Tortington Parish Council is awaited."*

40 mph speed limit imposed on section of the A27 through Fontwell.

A dividing line through the Tortington parish council area at Binsted has been agreed.  
Changes in the boundary between Barnham and Walberton are considered.

A precept of £700 was agreed. Several new street lights were installed.

The clerk received a letter from the county council indicating that the C.C. had lodged an objection to the green's registration under the Commons Registration Act, 1965, claiming that the parish council is not the owner of the area. The clerk visited County Hall and strongly defended the parish council's claim to own the whole of the green.

Slindon parish council suggest that a case exists for the extension of their boundary southwards to the A27. The council refused to agree with this proposal.  
Much correspondence over the Commons Registration Act. The Duke of Norfolk also submits a claim to ownership of Walberton Green. This claim was later withdrawn. [The clerk, Mr Price, was ultimately to win the argument in favour of the parish council.]

1972 Application for the development of 10 houses at the rear of the Holly Tree is 'undesirable'. Entrance through the school road is unacceptable. The application was opposed by the council and refused by the district council.

The ban on Sunday games of football is rescinded on a motion proposed by Mr Graham Eyre, Q.C., now a member of the council.

A public meeting was called to consider the effect of the county council's proposals for Tangmere Aerodrome, now vacated by the RAF. Cllr Eyre had produced a detailed report. The views of the council were conveyed to the county council.

The pond is drained and cleared of sediment and rubbish. The Water Authority to test the water prior to re-stocking with fish.

Further approach to Capt. Tupper regarding possible purchase of land to enlarge the playing field area.

1973 A Special Parish Meeting was called to consider a proposal to gain access to the land at the rear of the Holly Tree for development purposes. 120 members of the public were present. The chairman, Mrs Davis-Poynter, handed over to Mr Graham Eyre, Q.C. to present the owners' case and the council's objections. The meeting unanimously endorsed the council's objections to the plan.

A precept of £1,300 was set - the equivalent of a 1.7 pence rate.

The Street between Mill Lane and Tye Lane subject to flooding.

Mr Graham Eyre elected chairman.

The use of the playing field for golf practise is banned.

Capt. Tupper values the piece of land to the east of the playing fields at £40,000 per acre.

The parish council does not agree that the land has any development value.

The Horticultural Society holds its annual flower show in a marquee on the village green.

The council objects to a plan to hold markets at Fontwell on Sundays.

Council members are appointed to investigate the desirability of pursuing the provision of a village community centre.

Dutch Elm disease affects trees in the parish.

Pond restocked with carp and tench.

A meeting between residents and councillors was convened to discuss the problem of car parking in Barnham Lane.

Vehicle weight restrictions are sought for W. Walberton Lane, Tye Lane and the Street.

1974 The clerk reported that only one young resident had declared an interest in fishing in the village pond. It was agreed therefore that a general licence is not warranted.

The Countess of Woolton has accepted appointment as a school manager for a further 3 years.

The agents acting for the owners of the Holly Tree (the brewers) inform the council by letter that the proposed development at the rear of the Holly Tree is no longer a viable proposition.

New Arun District Association of Local Councils is formed.

Mr Price resigns as Clerk to the Parish Council. Mrs J. Clark is appointed clerk and submits her resignation as a councillor.

The council has received a letter from the Parochial Church Council regarding the cost of upkeep of the churchyard. The parish council agrees to a grant of £80 to be reviewed annually. [The parish council is the Burial Authority for the parish.]

The elm trees in the pound are badly affected by Dutch Elm disease and are becoming a danger.

A Best Kept Village (BKV) Committee is formed which includes non-councillors.

Condition of the pavilion gives considerable concern.

Precept agreed at £2,600.

**Note:** As a result of the Government Review of Local Government, the Local Government Act 1972 was implemented in 1974. The Act provided for the radical reshaping of local government and for fundamental changes in the structure of local authorities and in the distribution of functions among them. Chichester Rural District Council became Chichester District Council with its eastern boundary to the west of Aldingbourne parish. The new district council of Arun was formed and Walberton parish was included in the Arun District Council's area, thus losing its centuries old attachment to Chichester. [A similar government review is currently taking place.]

1975 Arun District Council instructed to prepare a draft scheme for the revision of local boundaries for the information of the Boundaries Commission. Parish council forms sub-committee to consider the subject. Tortington parish council invite two members from Walberton to consider the suggestion that Tortington be split between Walberton, Arundel and Ford.

Council concerned with possibilities of replacing the present pavilion. Mr Eyre reports that he has heard of an excellent timber pavilion surplus to the requirements of Cheltenham Ladies College.

Subsidised travel for pensioners is turned down by Arun D.C.

Council decide to buy space in the parish magazine to make wider contact with people living in the area.

Tortington confirm that they wish to split their parish three way - Binsted being assigned to Walberton. After some discussion the council agreed unanimously to accept the proposed new boundary.

Arun District Council suggest that it should take over responsibility for footway lighting throughout the district. The parish council resolved 'Unless there are major fiscal disadvantages in retaining it, then we would prefer to keep responsibility for footway lighting in the parish'. [Footway (street) lighting throughout the parish is owned and maintained by the parish council - with the exception of new developments.]

Weight limit signs now in place on all roads leading into the village.

A suggestion for humps to be installed across the road adjacent to the school entrance was turned down by the council as being 'too drastic a solution'. They were informed that there was no hope at all of a crossing patrol at the school. Mr Burch pointed out that his idea of a footpath from the school through the playing fields seemed to be a practical safety measure. This suggestion was not pursued.

Ministry of Transport propose to install traffic lights at the A27/29 junction at Fontwell. The parish council decided that they would favour a more comprehensive scheme at this complicated junction.

Mrs Wild brought up the problem of over-population of ducks on the pond.

Arun D.C. refused to supply copies of planning application documents to the parish council. [Parish clerk had to attend the District Offices and peruse plans in situ]

The diseased elm trees in the pound to be felled as they have become a danger to the public.

The parish council institutes a concessionary fares scheme for pensioners on a 3 months trial basis.

Walberton win the Best Kept Village competition - large village category. Mr Eyre attends a presentation ceremony at Sussex University to receive a plaque. A larger plaque, mounted on an 8 foot high post, is presented to the village to hold for one year. Council decide to have it installed on the verge opposite Maple Parade.

Unauthorised markets on Sundays at Fontwell cause serious traffic problems.

The unoccupied house by the green (Still Here) is deteriorating rapidly and the council consider asking the Housing Authority to use their statutory powers of purchase.

WSCC declare their intention of prohibiting parking at all times in Barnham Lane outside Oaktree Cottages (double yellow lines). The parish clerk directed to write a letter to all residents affected informing them that this action by the county council was not at the instigation of the parish council.

The concessionary bus fare scheme had been put into operation and tokens totalling £80. had been issued.

Concern over a proposed site for 'travellers' near the Balls Hut

Precept for the year is set at £2,970. Bus token scheme to cost £800 for the year.

Concern regarding vandalism in the village. Meeting with police sought. They undertake to give every co-operation and state that police can be in the village within two minutes of a telephone call.

A special meeting of the parish council was held on 19th December to make a decision regarding the purchase of the pavilion from Cheltenham. The meeting lasted from 7.30 until 9.30 p.m. and came to no firm decision. On a split vote the chairman declined to use his casting vote. At a further meeting on 4th January, after prolonged discussion, it was agreed to buy the pavilion. It was estimated that £6,000 would be sufficient to purchase the building, transport it to Walberton and re-erect it. It was proposed that a precept of £6,000. be levied and this was carried.

1976 Arun District Council now permit parish councils to borrow planning applications. Mr Burch asks if careful watch could be kept on 'Thatchings' (cottage in Street at foot of Dairy Lane). Shortly after this request, 'Thatchings' was destroyed by fire and later demolished.

**Note:** Parish Council Elections, 6th May 1976. For the first time for over 25 years an election by ballot had to be held. There were 13 nominations for the 9 vacancies. During this period there had always been only a maximum of 9 nominations at each election making a ballot unnecessary. All intervening vacancies had been filled by co-option.

At the first meeting of the new parish council Mr Eyre declined as chairman and Mrs Gwendoline Howard was elected.

The new council endorsed the previous council's decision to purchase the pavilion from Cheltenham Ladies College. The purchase was made for £1,250. The pavilion was dismantled, transported to Walberton, re-erected and connected to the old pavilion. The total cost of the whole project, including refurbishment of the old pavilion changing rooms and toilet facilities, interior furnishings etc., amounted to some £12,000. Grants and donations from the public greatly assisted, including an anonymous donation of £100 to purchase chairs. [It has proved a great asset to the village particularly in light of the demise some years later of the Parish Hall.]

Maximum penalty under the by-laws increased to £20.

Minimum fare on Southdown buses now 5p. Alteration necessary to parish bus token scheme.

Widening of the A27 - Royal Oak to Fontwell - imminent.

Concern regarding the state of the village pound. Mr Milburn suggests that the county council be asked for a grant for clearing same. [Ultimately the county council vacated the pound. The elm tree stumps were removed, the unsafe walls reduced in height and the area planted. (The pound, now conserved as a place of historical interest, was originally built on the flank wall of a flint barn which stood on its E. side ) It is now registered as the property of the parish council.]

The council congratulates the PTA of the school on completing their project of providing a swimming pool. A small donation made by the council.

Walberton wins the title 'Champion of Champions' of the County of Sussex in the Best Kept Village Competition. The plaque was presented to the Chairman, Mrs G. Howard, on 8th October at a parish council meeting.

Vandalism still a problem as is the traffic situation throughout the Street.

The post of Clerk is advertised and Mr Len Newman, a resident of Barnham, is appointed.

[Note: This was the year of the great drought and the pond dried out for the first time within living memory. Some 200 fish were removed to a lake at Petworth by the Rivers Authority. When the rains came in September the pond was filled within a few days and later restocked with fish.]

**1977** A special meeting was called on 4th January to discuss Silver Jubilee celebrations and Cllr Milburn was asked to form a committee and to organise the celebrations for the 6th and 7th July.

A committee was formed with four members of the council, representatives from village organisations and volunteers from the public.

A competition was held to select a Jubilee Queen to preside over the event. Lady Woolton agreed to be chairman of the judges. Rachel Dams was chosen as Queen with Debbie Skinner and Sarah Miles as attendants.

The programme was decided as follows:

Monday 6th June (public holiday)

- 3 pm Judging for best decorated house, shop or business premises.
- 8 pm Open air dancing at the playing fields to 'Green Ginger' group until midnight, with barbecue
- 10.30 pm Official bonfire lighting by the chairman of the parish council to coincide with bonfire lighting throughout the country.

Tuesday 7th June (public holiday)

- am Open air ecumenical Jubilee service on the village green, conducted by the vicar Mr Sidney Chapman  
Maypole and country dancing on the green by the school children.
  
- pm Carnival procession through the village from the green to the playing fields led by the band of the Littlehampton Sea Cadets.  
Official opening of the new pavilion by the Jubilee Queen and escort, chosen from the boys of Walberton School.  
Fancy dress parade and judging.  
Children's sports and sideshows.  
Jubilee tea for all village children of 13 and under. Presentation of mugs.  
Display and 'Beating the Retreat' by the band.  
Presentation of prizes and Grand Lottery Draw prizes.

[The whole event was a huge success although the weather was not too kind.]

Funds for the event had been raised by many events during the preceding months and no cost fell on the council funds. Four hundred mugs were distributed. After all costs had been paid there was a surplus of £700 of which £645 was given to the Pavilion fund and other donations to the Duchess of Norfolk's Jubilee appeal and the Red Cross.

A proposed gipsy site at Fontwell was approved by the district council after objections from the parish council. [The project was later abandoned due to a proposed by-pass of Fontwell.]

Council decides to formulate and adopt standing orders for the regulation of council business.

Considerable flooding causes concern in the area of Copse Lane and West Walberton Lane.

Arun district council received 600 applications from their tenants to purchase their houses - twelve of these from Walberton residents.

Application made to Arun D.C. for their by-laws relating to dogs to include Walberton.  
Flying at Ford restricted to business flights.

The Jubilee arch at the entrance to the green is in a dangerous condition. Council ask Isteds (builders) to dismantle and store any good timbers until a decision is made to its future. [As a result of enthusiastic efforts by interested members of the community led by Mr Brian Allsop, funds were raised and a grant given from parish funds. The arch was restored in 1982.]

A youth club was formed in the village and a grant given by the council.

1978 A new Best Kept Village Committee was formed (not parish council) and Mrs J. Grant elected chairman. Grant of £25 given by council.

The W.I. wished to plant two trees near the village green to commemorate the Jubilee. The county council stated that the planting would have to be done by their contractors and paid for by the parish council. This demand was considered ridiculous and the county council later withdrew. [The trees were duly planted by the W.I. on the verge in West Walberton Lane opposite the green. Unbeknown to the W.I. this was private land - however, the owners gave retrospective permission.]

The 'Green Route' is chosen by the parish council for the proposed Fontwell by-pass. Seven additional street lamps installed.

Cllr Milburn elected as a school governor after the resignation of Lady Woolton.

Change of parish boundaries was again discussed.

The annual precept was set at £4,000 (the product of a 2p rate).

Arun district council propose a gipsy site adjacent to the Royal Oak. The D.C. is informed of council opposition, listing 9 reasons why it should not be allowed.

Mr Milburn and Mr Price attended a hearing by the Commons Commissioner at County Hall. Evidence of ownership by the parish council was given and accepted against the claims submitted by the Norfolk Estates and the county council. The original registration was upheld.

Concern was expressed at the decrease of bus services and increases in fares. The council makes its objections known to the transport authorities.

Continued flooding at the green is a constant complaint to the council.

Repeated applications for a speed limit in Yapton Lane and a mini-roundabout at Blacksmith's Corner.

Moves in the village for a tennis club. The council agree that they would support this effort, perhaps by finding a site, but funds would not allow for its cost. The purchase of land at rear of Holly Tree considered. [A tennis club was formed by Mrs Belinda Wilkins and a court on private property in Eastergate Lane used for some time.]

Mrs Shepperd has written and printed a visitors' guide to the village which is put on sale at the post office. An accompanying map has also been produced.

Complaints received of ill treatment of ducks on the pond by lads fishing. A 'No Fishing' notice was suggested but Mr Milburn said it was more a question of vandalism than fishing. It was agreed that a 'No Fishing' order would be impossible to enforce.

A parish meeting was held on 20th October to discuss the proposed review of boundaries as required by the Boundaries Commission. It was suggested that there were three distinct areas where changes would be an advantage to residents: Binsted, Lake Lane and Slindon (Mill Road and Shellbridge Road). All residents likely to be affected had received letters from the parish council seeking their wishes. On a show of hands there was unanimous agreement that the council's recommendations be submitted to the Commission.

1979 The district council informs the parish of its intention to suggest to the county council that the area just east of the Royal Oak is suitable for a gipsy site. The parish council reiterates its previous objections. [This project was ultimately abandoned and a gipsy site was allocated to Comet Corner, Middleton.]

The Horticultural Society abandons its use of the village green for their annual show due to the high cost of hiring a marquee and equipment. The show this year is to be held in the school and application made to the parish for the use of the playing field for the Dog Show and car parking. Vandalism causing damage to the marquee the previous year is a contributing factor.

Vandals danced on the pavilion roof causing extensive damage.

After considerable pressure on the Highway Authority regarding the fast traffic through Fontwell, a pelican crossing is installed. [This crossing was removed soon after the opening of the Fontwell by-pass. Objections by the parish council were ignored.]

Annual grants to the Parochial Church Council are increased to £100 for churchyard maintenance and £75 for the Parish Magazine.

Walberton again win the Best Kept Village competition. The school were runners up in a special section for schools. The scheme for improving the old pound won the prize of £250. A motion of thanks to Mrs Grant and her committee was agreed with acclaim.

The Arundel Surgery are now using a small area of the pavilion as a surgery on two afternoons a week. A folding screen is installed to give privacy to patients.

The Youth Club is disbanded through lack of members.

1980 The bus token scheme was discussed in detail and the council decided to end the scheme.

A grant of £100 was given to the tennis club together with an interest free loan of £185 to be repaid in one year. The proposed site on the playing field was found to be too small to accommodate a tennis court. The club continued to operate in Eastergate Lane.

Avisford Park Hotel chosen as venue for the BBC programme 'It's a Knockout'.

Walberton and Slindon parish councils fail to agree on the change in boundaries and the matter is referred to the Parish Boundaries Review Working Party of Arun District Council.

Slindon parish council offer support to Walberton should the council decide to make representations over the Royal Oak junction.

A geological survey by vibroseis to take place through the parish. Operations to be carried out under licence from the Department of Energy. [Seeking for oil]

The lychgate at the church is renovated by Mr Awcock and Mr Lomath in time for the judging of the BKV.

The parish council under pressure from the county council to declare a 'control point' for the purposes of home defence and readiness for a possible nuclear attack. The suggestion that Walberton House be used is unacceptable and the Holly Tree public house becomes the control centre with an alarm siren fitted on the roof and control panel in the cellar [the siren was tested at regular intervals - the system has since been removed]

Mr Newman, clerk to the council, died. Mr Price again appointed clerk.

Walberton included in the Villages Mini Bus scheme. Mr Awcock to be council representative.

A donation from parish funds to be made annually.

Cllr Milburn undertakes a detailed survey of the traffic flows at the Royal Oak junction. A lengthy report with plans for improvements is presented to the parish council, unanimously approved and submitted to the Highway Authority. Although the report and plans were acknowledged to be a reasonable solution to the problem they were rejected on the grounds of cost. Instead of re-designing the junction, the Highway Authority placed a traffic island with lighted bollards in the centre of Yapton Lane and painted a series of white lines on the roadway. Serious and sometimes fatal accidents continued to occur.

Planning application for alterations and extensions to Walberton House considered. The council made objections to some aspects of the development.

Mrs Wilkins reported on an ice hazard during cold weather in Tye Lane due to a persistent water flow over the road surface. The council complain to the Highway Authority.

1981 The county council re-affirms its intention to implement its own scheme of limited alterations at the Royal Oak junction. The parish council complain to the Regional Controller of the Highway Authority (Ministry of Transport) and intend to monitor the success of the alterations during the summer. This junction is the worst black spot for accidents on the whole of the Dover to Honiton trunk road according to police records. Application for a caravan site at the rear of houses in West Walberton Lane is refused after objections by the parish council.

Council make a donation of £25 to Westergate School who are hosting a European Girls Chess Championship in 1981.

Parliamentary Constituency areas are varied.

At the AGM of the parish council Mr P. Brown declines nomination as chairman and Mr D. Milburn is elected.

Monitoring of the situation at the Royal Oak junction shows that accidents are still occurring despite the Highway Authority's alterations. Police are asked for a breakdown of accidents during the past 6 months.

The old part of the pavilion complex is re-roofed.

Representation made to the Parsonage Board and the Vicar regarding the proposal for development on the glebe land between the vicarage and the parish hall.

The title of School Managers is changed to Board of School Governors: Mrs Wilkins and Mr Milburn are elected governors`.

Council waive the by-law excluding horses from the village green so that pony rides may be allowed during a fund raising event for the Jubilee Arch on 13th June.

Outline application for development in Burch's yard for 10 houses and 11 garages is approved, subject to there being no encroachment on the triangle section of green which also belongs to the Burch family.

Dispute with Slindon parish council over re-alignment of parish boundary in area of A27 road.

Approaches are made to other authorities for assistance in improving conditions on the footpath and bridge between Walberton and Binsted.

Celebrations for the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer-Churchill were held on the village green on the evening of 29th July, organised by Mrs Wilkins who had raised the funds for the event. These included a bonfire and fireworks display, and community singing led by Charles Dixon. The scouts operated a refreshments stall; a fish and chips mobile van attended. The evening was a great success and no cost fell on parish council funds.

The driving of golf balls on the playing fields is causing concern.

Council decide not to enter the BKV competition this year.

Water flow into the pond is restricted and is flowing from Eastergate Lane across into Barnham Lane due to a blocked ditch. An old penstock directing the water into the pond had disappeared. Remedial work is undertaken.

The pavilion is again damaged by vandalism

The vicar, the Rev. S. Chapman retires and there are fears that no further vicars will be appointed for Walberton. The council convey their consternation to the Bishop. The bishop's reply received little comment. [The living was left empty until the Rev. Andrew Keith was appointed Priest in Charge in 1982].

Correspondence is received from solicitors stating that the conditions in the Trust Deed of the Nash Charity have been varied by the Charity Commissioners. This to result in an increased share for distribution in this parish instead of the hitherto fixed sum of £1 per annum.

An invitation from the Sussex Police for council to appoint an additional representative to the Crime Prevention Panel was considered. It was resolved that as the council chairman was also chairman of the Panel, this was adequate representation.

Pigeon House farmyard and the green by Burch's Yard are in the area scheduled for development by the District Council. The parish council demand that they be outside the development area. The development plan is amended as requested.

The green has been mole drained; this appears to have improved the drainage system.

1982 Police records reveal an average of one reported accident per month at the Royal Oak junction. Only fatal or injury accidents are recorded. The chairman undertook to arrange a site meeting of all interested parties. The county council decide to defer any action until the Fontwell by-pass is built.

A mother and toddler group is formed and will meet in the pavilion.

An Inspector and constable of Sussex Police attended a council meeting to give an explanation of the policing of the area. After subsequent discussion by the council it was resolved that the chairman should write to the Chief Constable and the Police Authority seeking an improvement in police coverage of the parish.

A hand operated 'litter picker' has been supplied to Commander P. Harper, at his request, for use in the area of the village green.

Agreement with the developers of Burch's Yard to have it named Burch Grove.

The chairman to attend the public inquiry into the proposed Fontwell by-pass to be held for the week commencing 2nd June, to present the case for the parish council. This was to include an appeal for the commencement, i.e. 100 metres from the Royal Oak junction, to be extended to the east and include a re-design of the junction. That a suitable crossing be installed for use by equestrians and pedestrians to give access to Slindon woods. These recommendations were accepted by the Inspector and included in his recommendations to the Ministry. [They were to be rejected by the Ministry and the county council's plan went ahead.]

The parish hall is closed on the recommendation of surveyors due to the deterioration in the building. The parish council is inundated with applications for use of the pavilion. Use of the pond by anglers has been very popular but there is a litter problem. It was resolved not to stop this activity but to discourage the depositing of litter.

A request is made to the county council for the linking of the footpaths in the Street between Dairy Lane and a point opposite Tye Lane. Estimated costs by the county council amounted to £3,000. The parish council offer £1,000 towards the cost. [The footpath was completed in March 1985 and included the building of a long red brick wall to retain the earth in the gardens of the adjacent properties. The parish council objected to the county council that they had not been consulted over the choice of building materials to be used. There were numerous complaints from the public.]

By September there was no evidence of any work being carried out by the Highway Authority on the public footpath to Binsted. It was resolved that 'the Clerk take the necessary action under the Highways Act 1980, requiring the Highways Authority to acknowledge within one month that the path is a highway which it is liable to maintain'. [The county council admitted responsibility but the work was not undertaken until the summer of 1984. The footpath is still a problem.]

Major repairs to the old pavilion are put in hand at a cost of some £3,000. Numerous complaints from residents of Shellbridge Road relating to the unauthorised use of motor cycles in the old gravel pits and woodland area to the rear of these properties. Continued dissatisfaction with policing throughout the parish. Further appeals made to the Police Authority with no good result.

The council was approached by the Trustees of the parish hall - the churchwardens - to consider some limited financial support, in the sum of about £6,000, to ensure the restoration of the parish hall to a usable condition for a few years. However, after perusal of the Trust Deed, it was revealed that the churchwardens must withdraw their request as the original deed denied any involvement by the parish council in the affairs of the parish hall. [The parish hall was later demolished. It had been built on glebe land in 1910 and donated by a resident of the parish. The piece of land had been conveyed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of the Church of England to the vicar and churchwardens for the sum of £50]

In December there was extensive flooding in the Street and Green area, extending from the green some hundred yards towards the village centre. Barrack Row and surrounding properties were inundated. Considerable correspondence ensued between the council and the district council. As a result a larger culvert was installed under the street from Mill Lane into the drainage system.

The year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of Walberton village school. Council agree to commemorate the event by presenting the school with a teak seat with a suitable plaque to be placed in the school grounds. The school governors and the PTA arranged many events in celebration. Specially designed leather bookmarks were presented to the children to mark the occasion. [The village school is believed to be the oldest public foundation school in West Sussex, founded by John Nash in 1732.]

**1983** In view of the proposed demolition of the parish hall the chairman called a parish meeting to discuss the possibility of the provision of a village hall. The meeting was held on 17th February in the school and about 200 members of the public were present. The chairman outlined his proposals and the difficulties that might be experienced in such a project. It would be necessary to raise funds of some £150,000 for such a task but with enthusiasm and good will it could be achieved. After considerable debate the chairman asked for a show of hands from those in favour of such a project. The result was overwhelmingly to pursue the objective of a village hall for Walberton.

A Village Hall Committee was subsequently formed to include representatives of all the associations in the village, representatives of the parish council and enthusiastic volunteers from the public. Mr Milburn was elected chairman. Two sub-committees were formed, one for building and development and the other for finance and fund raising. Village halls over a large area were visited for guidance on design and costs. Legal, architectural and surveying assistance was sought. The parish council agreed to make an initial donation of £100 for petty cash purposes. It was recognised that 3 or 4 years of fund raising would be necessary before building could commence. The parish council gives provisional approval of allocation of land in the playing fields - the precise area to be agreed with the Village Hall Committee.

A new set of by-laws is drawn up and submitted to the Home Office to be ratified by the Secretary of State. When approved, these to be signed by the chairman and Mrs S. Shrubshall. The maximum penalty for offences against the by-laws was set at £50.

Mrs Wilkins reported delivery of new kitchen equipment for the pavilion - subsequently installed by volunteer labour by councillors.

Areas on the green by the pond have been re-soiled, levelled and re-seeded. Volunteer organisation are to be approached for assistance with the work of cleaning the pond and stabilising the island. The work is scheduled for the summer.

The area of Little Danes Wood is to be cleared for agricultural use by arrangement between the Forestry Commission and Arun District Council. The parish council felt that it should have been consulted and communicated their opposition to the scheme to both authorities. The clearance did not take place.

The development in Burch's Yard completed but two concrete lamp standards have been installed on the green without consultation with the parish council. The County Surveyor is asked to remove the offending standards which are not in keeping with the village. The standards were removed and replaced with one only, to conform with type in use throughout the village.

Vandalism is rife in the village and is featured in the national press. This has generated a high level of police activity and a meeting is arranged between the chairman and the Police Superintendent.

The council registered its objections to the proposal to extend the types of prisoners to be held at Ford Prison.

The use of the pavilion as a surgery is discontinued.

The pond was drained and the fish removed by the Southern Water Authority. Large quantities of silt and mud were removed with numerous cans and bottles. A retaining wall was built around the island with elm boards and stakes and the ground made up. The private bank was stabilised. The work was undertaken by Mr Heathcote and Mr Milburn with the assistance of Mr Haffendon and his JCB. A party of youths from the Chichester Youth Conservation Group gave some assistance. The pond was later re-stocked with fish by the Southern Water Authority.

A detailed paper prepared by Mr Sims-Williams, Chairman of the Parish Council Planning Committee, is sent to the County Planning Officer. The paper stresses the necessity to maintain green belt areas between villages.

The Boundaries Commission recommend the proposed linking of Walberton with such parishes as Climping, Wick and others. The parish council and the district council submit that this is administratively, geographically and historically unacceptable. The Commission's proposals are withdrawn.

Activities of various kinds were held during the year for the Village Hall Fund. Eash association in the village promulgated its own event. The chairman of the Village Hall Committee had written an appeal letter to a number of charitable trusts resulting in a first donation of £1,000 from the Kleinwort Trust and a donation of £25 from the Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk Trust. An appeal was made to all residents for donations, covenants and interest free loans. The result was very encouraging. The chairman suggested that a Walberton Carnival be planned for the summer of 1984.

At the last parish council meeting of 1983, the chairman introduced a Draft Deed of Declaration and Trust which had already been agreed by the Village Hall Committee. The deed ensures that the ownership and control of the proposed hall remains in the hands of the Village Hall Committee which is representative of all the associations within the village and are the Trustees of Walberton Village Hall. By law it is necessary to appoint Custodial Trustees to assume control should the project fail at any time in the future. There was a choice between the Public Custodian and the Parish council. It was decided that the parish council be the custodial trustees. The Trust Deed was accepted unanimously by the parish council.

1984 Following inquiries from the public, Mr Sims-Williams was asked to investigate the sale in 1982 of the Nurse's Bungalow in W. Walberton Lane. It transpired that the bungalow had been built in 1938 as a result of donations from the public and a considerable sum from the late Mrs Long, and placed under the control of the District Nursing Association as a place of residence for the district nurse. In 1948 when the National Health Service came into being, rent was paid by them and the local Health Authority into the funds of the charity known as the Walberton, Binsted and W. Barnham Sick Poor Fund. On the sale of the property the proceeds were paid into that charity in accordance with the terms of the original trust deed.

[Nurse Lightfoot was the first occupant in March 1939. She served the village as its district nurse until her retirement in 1966. She also served as a parish councillor. A popular figure and much-loved in the community. ]

Mr Youatt (councillor and solicitor) in discussion with the developers on the possibility of the council's purchase of the land at the approach to Burch Grove.

The Trust Deed relating to the proposed new village hall is formally signed by the Chairman, Cllr D.J. Milburn and the Vice-chairman, Cllr T. Sims-Williams.

Owing to difficulties of storage of Red Cross equipment, the council agrees to a small storage hut being erected next to the pavilion to be used for Red Cross instructional purposes. All costs to be paid for by the Red Cross and a rent charged.

Tree Felling activity at Little Danes Wood is reported to the District Council.

The chairman reports that Walberton Village Hall is now a Registered Charity after approval by the Charity Commissioners. He further reported to council that as chairman of the Village Hall committee he had submitted a request to the county council for a substantial grant towards the project. However, although funds were available, a grant could only be made when the V.H. committee could produce proof that the project was a viable proposition by its own fund raising. The maximum grant permissible would be £40,000., half from the county council and half from Arun district council. Application to be made annually until such time as the conditions imposed are met.

The council agree to proceed with the purchase of the land leading to Burch Grove at a cost of £100. Mr Youatt is thanked for his legal services in the matter for which there were no charges.

A donation of £2,000 to the Village Hall Fund was approved.

In June, work on footpath between Walberton and Binsted finally completed.

On 9th June the first Walberton carnival took place on the playing fields organised by the Village Hall Committee. The main event was a donkey derby sponsored by Mr Tony Fynn of Avisford Park Country Club. Other events included, Crazy Olympics, fancy dress parade for children, folk dancing display, tug of war etc. plus displays and sideshows. A barn dance was held in the evening to live music, and a barbecue. The day was a great success and raised the sum of £3,000 towards the Hall Fund.

The county council gave notice of courses for volunteers to train as 'War Time Advisers'. The parish council posted notices but there were no volunteers.

A circus for children was permitted on the village green.

The proposal of Arun District Council to build a new office block in Littlehampton at a cost of two and a half million pounds was discussed. The parish council resolved to object.

Efforts were made by Walberton and Eastergate parish councils to have a 30 mph speed limit imposed on Eastergate Lane. This was refused.

An agreement between the council and the school governors was signed relating to access between the school grounds and playing field. The agreement included the provision of a gate between the two areas which was to be locked when the school was not in use.

A newly formed stool-ball club has regular matches on the playing field, thus reviving an interest in the old Sussex game.

The council's mower is stolen.

At a meeting between the Arun District Council and all parish and town councils, council joined with others in objecting to the proposal for a 'naturist' beach at Climping. Old farm buildings abutting the green to be converted to a single storey dwelling. [Now Mulberry Barn]

The Department of Education and Science inform the council that the John Nash Charity in relation to the founding of the school has been transferred to the control of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Value of the trust at time of transfer was £1,631.

The file on 'Still Here', the derelict building facing the green, was re-opened. The clerk to write to the owners. Failing any response the council will ask the district council to issue a compulsory purchase order.

The Rev. Andrew Keith asks the council to consider the appointment of a Parish Old Peoples Warden.

Severe flooding in the area of Maple Road during the winter.

The council is informed by the County Council Educational Department that in future parish council's representation on school governing bodies of all primary schools in the county will be reduced to one member only. As Clerk to the Governors of Walberton and Binsted School, Mr Milburn wrote to the Education Authority, The Minister for Education and Sir Michael Marshall, M.P. protesting that the practise of over a century should be overturned in such an arbitrary manner. Council agreed with the views expressed and it was agreed that the council's clerk should write in similar terms. [After lengthy correspondence by both the parish council and the school governors, the order was rescinded and Walberton School became the only primary school in W. Sussex to retain two governors appointed by the parish council. However, this situation only prevailed for two years. Following the implementation of the new Education Act of 1986, representation by all parish councils throughout the land was reduced to one.

**1985** Obstruction by parking in the Street between the Post Office and the Village Stores causing complaint. The matter to be investigated by the council, the Highway Authority and the police.

The Victorian pillar box at Mill Lane was knocked down by an unknown vehicle and replaced by a box on an iron post. The council requested the return of the Victorian box but was refused.

Precept on the rates increased to £6,000.

The pavilion is broken into and several items of equipment stolen.

Council ask the Highways Authority to consider the linking of the footway from Walberton with that from Barnham in the interest of safety to pedestrians.

Area maps depicting the new parish boundaries received. The changes to take effect from 1st April.

[The whole of Binsted becomes part of Walberton parish. Shellbridge Road and Mill Road are lost to Slindon and Lake Lane and Nursery Cottages to Barnham.]

At the AGM of the parish council on 13th May the chairman proposed that Mrs Rosemary Tristram of Binsted be co-opted to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs Wilkins. This was carried unanimously.

As the result of a serious accident in Yapton Lane the County Surveyor is to be asked to make an examination of this highway. Council suggest the provision of a footway, speed limit and an improved layout for Blacksmith's Corner. [The examination was made but nothing was done.]

The local police Crime Prevention Officer attended the parish council meeting in July to explain the newly created Neighbourhood Watch scheme. [Subsequently four units of Neighbourhood Watch were set up in the village. ]

The second Walberton Carnival in aid of village hall funds was held in June - this time with helicopter rides. £2,057 was raised. [Total so far £21,000] Many other events took place during the year.

A team from Walberton, including Peter Brown, Mike Gammon, John Heathcote and Howard Robinson, ran the London Marathon under sponsorship for the Village Hall. They all completed the course and raised the princely sum of £2,276. [Further runs were made for the funds at different times and venues.]

A firework display was held on the playing fields [this has since become an annual event organised by David Hart, John Hall and a band of enthusiasts]

The Walberton Operatic Society continued a main contributor to the fund with many fine productions.

The Sims-Williams Estate Agency gave an undertaking to give the fund £50 when any house in the village was sold by them.

The parish council contributed a further £3,000 in this year.

**1986** The Community Call Scheme promulgated by Arun District Council is welcomed by the council. A demonstration is arranged with the assistance and co-operation of the Evergreen Club. The 1981 census revealed that there were 182 persons above the age of 75 years resident in the parish. Any elderly person being unable to meet the cost may be considered for a grant from the Walberton, Binsted and W.Barnham Sick Poor Charity.

At the meeting of the parish council on 11th March there was an unusually large public presence (some 150 members of the public from both Walberton and Eastergate ). An unsigned circular had intimated that these residents would be permitted to 'raise a voice in protest' at a proposed development for a Care Village for the Handicapped at Dell Nursery, Eastergate Lane. The chairman stressed that the circular did not originate from the parish council and expressed his regret that so many people were present in the mistaken belief that they would be able to take part and that no public participation would be permitted. Subsequently many interruptions took place culminating in one member of the public being warned that the police would be called to eject him if he persisted in his behaviour. There were no further interruptions.

Following a long discussion the council objected to the development of the Care Village on planning grounds only, inasmuch as it contravened the County Structure Plan and the Arun District Council's Local Plan in that 1) The site is outside the area scheduled for development; 2) It is in an area in which it is intended that permission for development unrelated to an essential rural activity would not normally be granted; 3) If approved it would represent a form of development which would be out of keeping with the present character of the area and out of scale with existing development. [The development was permitted by the District Planning Authority and the village itself and its residents have been accepted and welcomed into the community.]

The Rev. Martin Sully appointed Vicar of St Mary's Walberton and Rector of Binsted Church.

The council were surprised to discover that a new seat had been installed in the playing fields without their knowledge. Inquiries revealed that Arun District Council had installed the seat by mistake and that it had been intended for another site within the district. However, as the seat had been so well installed, they said that it could remain and that no cost would fall on the parish council. The District Council were thanked for their kind gift.

The council purchased 50 kilos of daffodil bulbs under the 'Plant a Bulb' scheme. The bulbs were planted on the greensward opposite Maple Parade and on the verges of the green by Councillors John Awcock and Bill Bailey.

Mrs C. Eyre's offer to look after the pound garden is gratefully accepted.  
A further grant of £3,000 made to the Village Hall Fund.

1987 A letter to the chairman from a schoolgirl, Miss Clarke, of W. Walberton Lane, calls attention to the slaughter of ducks on the roads adjoining the pond and suggests that signs are installed to warn motorists of their presence. Council agree but the Highway Authority say they cannot assist. The chairman undertook to provide suitable signs and install them on council owned sites. The following day the signs had disappeared, removed by the Highway Authority to their depot. A dispute arose as to the legality of the signs and the ownership of the sites which resulted in a prompt return and replacement of the signs with an apology from the County Surveyor. Within a very short time suitable highway warning signs of similar design were produced by the Highway Authority and properly installed on roads approaching the pond.

Arun District Council announce their intention of delegating to their planning officers decisions on planning applications that have been the subject of parish council objection. This would mean that such planning matters would not come before the Planning Committee of the elected members of the council. Town and parish councils objected strongly and the decision was withdrawn.

An election for the parish council was held in May resulting in a considerable change of councillors. At the AGM on 12th May Mr P. Youatt was elected chairman.

It was resolved that Cllr Milburn continue to represent the council on the VH Committee. Plans were produced for the hall ready for submission to the Planning Authority. There was some dispute over the plans and the location of the site. It was resolved that application for planning consent be delayed until further consideration could be given.

Following a request from the PTA, council provided a metalled footpath from the car park of the playing fields to the permitted entrance to the school grounds, thus alleviating some of the traffic danger to children in the Street.

At a meeting of the VH committee on 15th May, Mr Milburn reported receipt of a letter from the Education Dept. of the county council stating that a grant of £40,000 would be forthcoming - £20,000 from the county council and £20,000 from the district council. [This last only being obtained after considerable pressure was brought to bear on Arun District Council to conform to an agreement made between themselves and the county council.]

Prior to the grant being announced, fund raising had reached £47,000. The newly available total of £87,000 meant that sufficient money was now available to commence building.

During the year much time was spent on discussions concerning the three proposed routes for the Arundel By-pass.

To summarise:

The parish council give support for the red route and inform the MoT of this decision.

Binsted residents form a By-pass committee which rejects all proposed routes and decides to press for an alternative 'dotted' route.

The parish council call a public meeting on 1st July when the matter was fully debated by the public. Cllr Milburn read a paper that he had been asked to prepare by the Planning & Conservation committee of the Sussex Rural Community Council of which he was a member. The SRCC had adopted his paper, recommending the red route to which the parish council had initially agreed.

After considerable debate, the parish council decided to support the 'dotted' route as proposed by the By-pass committee.

[At a later stage the By-pass committee opted for a 'pink' route which largely followed the lines of the original red route. The parish council supported them in this. The matter is still not entirely resolved.]

Continual flooding in various localities in the village promotes much correspondence with the district and county councils.

Fontwell By-pass under construction. Parish council invited to attend site meeting monthly with the contractors and the Highway Authority. The chairman and Cllr Milburn attend all meetings.

The Village Hall Committee is requested to scarify and sow or turf the burnt area caused by the annual bonfire.

Mr Heathcote declines co-option to the Playing Fields Committee but states that he is prepared to continue the practical work for the parish which he carried out whilst a member of the council.

At the council meeting on 25th June, with members of the Village Hall committee present by invitation, a long discussion took place regarding the project. Several councillors queried the necessity for a large hall as planned and queried the provision of funds from the parish council. The council decided that they would consider the plans in detail before submitting them to the Planning Authority on behalf of the Village Hall committee.

At a council meeting on 8th September, Cllr Milburn stated that due to recent happenings and an obvious clash of interest with the majority of the council, he could no longer serve the council as their representative on the VH committee. This would also necessitate his resignation from the Chairmanship of the Village Hall committee as he would no longer be a Trustee acting on behalf of the council. Mr Brian Allsop was appointed as the council's representative. [Mr Howard Robinson was persuaded to take over the Chairmanship of the VH committee and guided the project to completion.]

Cllr Mrs Anne Hall suggested that consideration be given to the production of a Quarterly News Letter to keep residents informed of parish council activities.

The chairman reported that the proposed adoption of Avisford Park Road by the county council would involve the parish council in respect of about 125 feet of playing field frontage onto the road.

As the result of a site meeting with planning officers of the district council, the Village Hall committee is persuaded that there should be a relocation of the proposed site to a position abutting land at the rear of the Holly Tree. The current architect is dismissed and Arun District Council's own architects design an alternative to the originally planned hall. The Trust Deed is amended.

On the night of the 16th October a hurricane devastated thousands of acres of woodland throughout Sussex. Walberton Parish suffered considerable damage to property and many trees were uprooted. All roads leading from the village were blocked and access to and from the village was restricted for a week or more. There was also considerable flooding of the Street at both ends of the village.

Cllr G.C. Bailey died in office. The vacancy on the parish council was discussed. Cllr Allsopp suggested that there was a case for seeking Ward status for the area known as Fontwell. The council resolved to seek this change which could not, however, be effected until the next elections due in 1991. In the meantime, Mr J. Leach was co-opted (nominated by Fontwell Residents' Association).

Planning officers from Arun District council, by invitation, attended an open meeting prior to the parish council meeting on 26th November to express their views on the changed situation at Fontwell following the completion of the by-pass. It appeared that they were in favour of allowing planning permission for development of the whole of that area between the by-pass and the old A27. The parish council and general public present at the meeting were against further development in Fontwell.

At a special meeting of the parish council on 16th December, Mr K. Williams, Chairman of the Building sub-committee of the Village Hall committee produced the detailed plans for the new hall. Cllr Milburn proposed and Cllr Hart seconded that the plans be submitted to the Planning Authority by the council on behalf of the VH committee. This proposal was carried.

1988 A detailed case for Warding at Fontwell is submitted to the district council.

Further application to Highway Authority for speed limit in Yapton Lane.

Survey undertaken of parish street lights.

Application made for replacement of trees uprooted by the hurricane.

Consideration being given to the deterrence of golf playing and the control of dogs in the playing fields.

Abolition of domestic rates and their replacement by a community charge causes problems in relation to parish council precepts.

Planning applications for two large scale development plans for the Fontwell area (63 units and 30 units) are opposed

The GPO request a fee of £3,390 for the removal of the telephone box at the playing fields entrance to a nearby site. After negotiation and in view of the fact that the box is on council property, the fee was not pursued.

The Department of the Environment gives approval for the borrowing of £38,000 over a ten year period from the Public Works Loan Board. [The original application for a twenty year period had been refused.]

The building of the new village hall is out to tender and the building materials chosen.

There are presently about 100 ducks on the village pond. The clerk to consult the staff of the Arundel Wildfowl Trust about this problem.

Council make a further donation of £4,000 to the VH committee.

The numbers of prisoners escaping from Ford Open Prison is a matter of concern. It was agreed that the matter should be dealt with collectively through the Arun Association of Local Councils of which Cllr Milburn is chairman.

The Fontwell By-pass was opened in July, 1988.

Many minor repairs to the pavilion are effected by Mr Roy Jackson. Redecoration inside and out has been completed. The pavilion complex is examined by a professional surveyor who suggests that a sinking fund of £500 per annum be set up to cover the cost of its replacement when necessary. His estimate of life expectancy of the wooden structure is 20 years.

The village hall building was commenced in October. The builder was Geoffrey Stenning & Son Ltd, of the village.

A number of residents have written to the council about the ducks in the mistaken belief that the council intend to enter into culling activities. A petition had been initiated and signed by a number of people.

Residents present were assured that there were no culling plans. The meeting was suspended to enable residents to air their views.

Retirement of Mr Ronald Golder, M.A., Headmaster of the school for many years.

1989 Mrs Carole Williams is appointed head teacher at Walberton and Binsted School. Representations are made to the district council in relation to the Draft Local Plan to ensure that the area between Walberton and Barnham is preserved as a Specified Gap. This was agreed and written into the plan.

Due to the implications of the reported new arrangements for the financing of local councils, the precept is increased to £17,000.

The high accident rate at the Royal Oak junction - averaging three per week - is still causing alarm. Further representation to the Highway Authority.

The parish council is involved with Sir Michael Marshall, M.P., the Highway Authority and others in an examination of the problem of horse riders wishing to cross the new highway.

An agreement is to be signed with the county council for the transfer of a small piece of land at the junction of the old A29/A27 which the Fontwell residents wish to adopt as a small open space. [It was subsequently discovered after the legal document had been drawn up and was ready for signing, that the land did not belong to the county council and consequently the transfer did not take place.]

The new Care Village in Eastergate Lane was officially opened by Princess Alexandria in March.

After obtaining permission from the parish council, an oak tree was planted on the village green by the West Sussex County Council to commemorate their centenary.

In April the building of the village hall was completed except for the section at the rear of the stage.

John Eyre has made a detailed study of the village and is invited to address the parish council on the subject. He suggests that an application be forwarded to the district council for sections of the village to be designated as Conservation Areas. The application was submitted and approved by Arun District Council.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr Milburn and seconded by Cllr Surrell:  
*'That in the light of continuing fatal and serious personal injury accidents occurring at the A27/B2132 Royal Oak Junction, this Parish Council publicly record a vote of censure and of no confidence in the Ministry of Transport, the West Sussex Council Highways Committee and their officers, for their continued procrastination, persistent refusal and complete failure to effect a realistic solution despite constant representations made over the past ten years by this and other Local Councils, a Member of Parliament, local County Councillor and many members of the public.'*  
The resolution was passed unanimously and a copy sent to the respective departments.

The Travel Lodge and Service Complex at Fontwell was completed in December.

1990 Cllr Milburn produces a written history of the pond. Council decide to request a professional survey of the pond and surrounds by the Game Conservancy Trust. Mrs Tittensor, an acknowledged authority on ponds and wildlife, is asked to produce a report.

A public meeting was called on 22nd March and the reports were presented for discussion. A lively discussion ensued and at the end of the meeting the parish council were given a decisive vote (on a show of hands) to remove some of the ducks to other waters. [Some were transferred to Slindon and Binsted ponds by request from those areas as neither pond had any ducks.]

Minister's inspection of Royal Oak junction. All who attended expressed dissatisfaction with what was considered an abortive visit. The chairman was authorised to forward a letter to the Secretary of State, prepared by Sir Graham Eyre, Q.C., calling for urgent action to resolve the problems associated with this junction.

A new extended children's play area is planned.

Donations to the Parish News and the Churchyard are increased to £214 and £123 respectively.

It was resolved that the Parochial Church Council be informed that 'this council recommends and calls for wide public debate on the future of the churchyard and any possible extension'.

A planning application was made for an extension to be built onto the church to provide a community room and toilet. This would require the removal of several graves, some fairly recent, in order to excavate the foundations. The parish council objected and the application was refused by the Planning Authority.

McAlpine's (Developers) submit an application for planning consent covering a large area of land north of the old A27 at Fontwell. The parish council and the Fontwell Residents' Association objected. [Due to the recession in the building industry the application was later withdrawn.]

The Walberton Operatic Society apply for permission to place a portacabin or a caravan at the rear of the village hall on land allocated for the hall extension, to be used temporarily as a changing room. This was approved.

The clerk has again written to the District Council Planning Department requesting information on the road making and tree felling at Little Danes Wood. The parish council have been requesting this information for three years with little response. A village carnival, held on 15th September, raised £2,200 towards the VH fund.

The Dunhill Trust publicise plans for the building of a village for the elderly on land owned by them on the south side of the old A27 at Fontwell. The village would bring some 300 persons over 75 years of age to Fontwell in a self contained environment. The population of Fontwell would be more than doubled and would produce such an imbalance that at least 75% of the population of this small area would be over the age of 75. The idea caused considerable unrest in the Fontwell area and was opposed by the parish council. [Although the Dunhill Trust still own the land, a detailed planning application has never been submitted.]

Walberton shares the Tidiest Village in Arun Award with Ferring. Precept set at £12,250.

Ford prisoners have been employed from time to time to do work for the parish council and the churchyard with excellent results.

A new gate between the playing fields and the school grounds is installed; the gate to be locked by the school caretaker out of school hours.

Some items of new equipment have been received for installation in the children's play area.

1991 Mr J. Booker gives some silver birch trees for planting on the green at the approach to Burch Grove.

A request had been received from Mrs Weller asking permission to erect a disused timber school classroom on the playing fields for the use of the scouts. It was decided that the request be dealt with by the new council after the coming elections.

The Clerk to the parish council, Mr A.W. Price, gives notice of his intention to retire as at 31st March.

Mr John Heathcote appointed Clerk as from 1st April.

At an annual parish meeting on 11th April, the retiring clerk was presented with engraved goblets, a panama hat and a bouquet for Mrs Price, in recognition of his many years of sterling service to the parish council.

J. Lawson's Children's Circus performed on the village green from 3rd to 6th May.

Parish Council Elections: there were only seven nominations for the nine posts and three of these were new members. Mrs I. Howell and Mr Ian Surrell were the first councillors to be elected for the new Fontwell Ward. The retiring chairman, Mr Peter Youatt, had declined nomination.

Cllr Milburn was elected chairman. On accepting, he stated that he intended to hold office for one year only in order to give continuity in view of the large number of new members.

It was reported that Mr K. Perry and Mrs Emma Tristram were willing to be co-opted. This was proposed and carried unanimously.

All new members elect to attend a course for parish councillors to be run by the Sussex Association of Local Councils.

Cllr Mrs Anne Hall was elected as the parish council's trustee on the village hall committee. [Mrs Hall has been closely involved with the village hall project since it was first launched.]

The question of the scout hut was fully debated by the council and a decision was made to call a public meeting on the 16th July so that residents could discuss the matter and the scout leaders could state their case. The parish council and 55 members of the public were present. After a full debate the meeting gave no clear lead as to how the matter should be resolved. The main objection to the proposal was shortage of space for recreational games, the whole area being a little over 5 acres of ground of which a large section had been covered by the pavilion complex, the new village hall, the children's playground and a large car park. It was felt that the village hall and pavilion should provide sufficient facilities for all organisations within the parish.

At a parish council meeting on 26th July the council, after long discussion, resolved that 'This Council is not in favour of allowing other buildings on the playing fields'. [An alternative site on adjacent land was offered at no charge by Mr Richard Monk of the Holly Tree. His offer was declined.]

Sir Michael Marshall invited two members of the council together with 2 members of Slindon parish council and representatives of the Highway Authority to meet the Minister for Transport. The chairman and Mrs Tristram were nominated to attend. No firm decisions were made. The parish council is concerned at the enormity of a two tier interchange at the Royal Oak absorbing several acres of woodland. They expressed their preference for the new by-pass to join the existing A27 further to the east and suffer the inconvenience caused by the 'shut off' centre reservation at the Royal Oak.

The bridge on the Binsted footpath is repaired by volunteers from a conservation group of The Body Shop.

Improvements to the old part of the pavilion are suggested by Cllr Perry, chairman of the Playing Fields and Pavilion Committee. He also produced plans for improving storage facilities etc. It was agreed that the suggested project was worthwhile and would be further considered when detailed plans had been costed. [Cllr Perry has himself made many repairs and improvements to the pavilion during the year.]

The village hall committee hold a fireworks and bonfire event, again sponsored by Avisford Park Hotel.

A further £1,700 is added to the funds.

The planning application for a 'Circus Museum' at the Lazy W in Yapton Lane brought a deluge of letters of opposition from residents, even evoking reports in the National Press. The parish council totally opposed the application which was eventually refused.

1992 The parish council decide to update Standing Orders for the conduct of Council Meetings.

Traffic calming measures in Fontwell are now completed and prove effective.

The pond bank fronting Eastergate Lane has been re-instated and the verge restored to its original width.

The chairman proposed 'that this Parish Council agrees to adopt by-laws for the control of dogs and the removal of canine faeces for the following locations: Children's play area, Playing Field, The Street, Walberton Green and adjacent greens and verges and that the Chairman Mr D..J. Milburn and the Vice-Chairman Mrs Anne Hall be appointed to sign and seal the two official copies of the by-laws for submission to the Secretary of State'. Carried.

All debts have been paid off by the Village Hall committee; however repayment by the parish council of the 10 year loan from the Public Works Loan Board continues.

The Police Authority have set up a new Police/Public Consultative Committee under instructions from the Home Office. Cllr Milburn has been elected Vice Chairman of the new committee which involves the whole of the Arun area.

It was agreed that a further number of ducks be removed from the pond.

The clerk has traced the three joint owners of 'Still Here' and has written to them regarding this still unoccupied and partly derelict property.

The Chairman of Arun District Council attended a parish council meeting mainly for the purpose of presenting a cheque for success in the Keep Arun Tidy Campaign. It was arranged that Mrs J. Grant should receive the cheque on behalf of the W.I. who had organised the campaign in the village. He was, however, unable to present the cheque as the council officer who accompanied him had forgotten to bring it.

The council decide to enter the South East in Bloom Competition which includes all parishes and towns in Surrey, Sussex and Kent. [Walberton were successful in winning the prize in the Large Village section and the Holly Tree a special prize.]

The Government has embarked on a Local Government Commission exercise with the object of reducing local government to a single tier of administration but preserving town and parish councils. A battle ensues between County and District Councils for survival. The Commission's decision relating to Sussex will not be known until late in 1994.

Mrs Brenda Dixon publishes a book 'Unknown to History and Fame,' being a selection of prose, poetry and photographs from 19th Century Walberton. Proceeds from sales are donated to the village hall fund.

At the AGM on 7th May, Cllr Richard Bond was unanimously elected chairman with Cllr Mrs Anne Hall as vice-chairman.

Estimates have been received that improvements to the pavilion complex could cost in the region of £35,000.

Richard Monk of the Holly Tree has given a further donation of £100 towards improvements on the playing field.

Practically the whole of Walberton Village is now registered as a Conservation Area.

The School Governors had given notice to the council that charges for the use of the school hall for parish council meetings would be greatly increased. Cllr Milburn pointed out that under the Local Government Act of 1972 the school could not refuse the parish council use of the school for meetings and that no charge could be levied. The School Governors agreed with his interpretation of the Act. However the parish council decided to use the pavilion for future meetings. A custom of some 98 years was discontinued.

The Fontwell (previously known as The Balls Hut) is demolished by the Dunhill Medical Trust without prior planning permission from the Planning Authority. [An historic landmark is thus destroyed.]

An estimate is received for £1,500 to remove silt from the pond and a further £500. to shore up the island. Although it was felt that dredging was needed, the chairman considered that £2,000 was out of the question.

Mr Richard Monk of the Holly Tree has won the premier award in the Arun in Bloom contest for the third time.

Parish council insurance policies have to be reconsidered due to the collapse of MMI Insurance Co. Ltd. (MMI insured the majority of local councils throughout the country.) The local Red Cross unit having been disbanded for some time, the parish council purchase their hut on the playing field for storage use.

On 27th November at County Hall, Chichester, after a year of consultation, a document entitled 'Statement of Partnership Between the County Council and Local Councils' was signed by Cllr Martyn Long, Chairman of the County Council and Cllr Milburn, Chairman of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils on behalf of the 141 parish and town councils in W. Sussex.

1993 The annual precept is agreed at £15,000.

In the knowledge that exploratory discussions were already taking place between the Dunhill Medical Trust and Arun District council regarding the proposed old persons village at Fontwell, the chairman instigated a meeting between members of the Trust and four members of the parish council on 9th January. It was later reaffirmed that the parish council fully support the Fontwell Residents Association in their opposition to the Dunhill Trust Development.

Cllr Bond produced a draft addendum to Standing Orders which included 'Terms of Reference for Committees of the Walberton Parish Council'. These were discussed and unanimously approved.

It is announced that W. Sussex County Council fully supports the 'Pink' route for the Arundel by-pass.

Council learn that Mr L. Wishart of Binsted has circulated a letter to local residents advising them that he intends to apply to build an extension to the Avisford Park golf course in the Binsted valley.

Not content with the Minister's quoted preference for the PINK route, the Arundel Committee have introduced an additional line of route which they call the GREEN route. This further activity causes some disquiet. A possible public enquiry is awaited.

The Foundation for Sports and Art have offered a grant of £6,000. towards the pavilion extension subject to the completion of the plans submitted. A decision must be made by the parish council within two years.

A circus performed on the village green in June.

A public seat has been installed at Fontwell on the verge by the shops.

Cllr Ansell resigns due to pressure of work. Mr K. Inglis is co-opted.

The persistent obstruction by motor cars in the Street is causing concern and has been the subject of debate for some three years.

The Home Secretary has proposed a scheme for returning to the 18th century suggesting that parishes appoint unpaid volunteer parish constables. There is a noticeable lack of enthusiasm for this idea.

Council consider ideas on what form of event should mark the Centenary of Walberton Parish Council.

A Rock Concert is held at Fontwell Racecourse on 30th November. Conditions were imposed by the police and no problems ensued.

Cllr Inglis, an acknowledged expert on traffic problems, prepared a detailed document on traffic problems in the Street and possible remedies. His recommendations were forwarded to the Highway Authority and there are to be further discussions with that Authority and the Police.

1994 At the start of the year large areas in the village were flooded (as were areas between the village and Chichester). The whole of the village green was under water which extended along the Street for some considerable distance. The eastern end of the village was impassable for over a week and access from Barnham was impossible,

On 20th January a 'Partnership Agreement' was signed by Arun District Council and the Arun District Association of Local Councils. The signatories were the Chairman of Arun D.C. and Cllr D. Milburn on behalf of the 31 parishes and three towns within Arun District.

The application for a golf course in the Binsted Valley, although not objected to by the parish council, was refused by the Planning Authority.

An appeal against the refusal was lodged and a secondary application submitted to the Planning Authority.

The parish council reconsidered the situation and called a Public Meeting to measure public opinion on the matter. Some 150 persons attended. The meeting on 18th March was conducted in a most orderly manner by the chairman Cllr Richard Bond, and after a long debate the following motion was proposed from the floor and seconded: "That this meeting objects to the proposed golf course at Binsted". Put to the vote (electors only) the resolution was carried by a large majority. At a subsequent meeting of the parish council it was decided to oppose the new application for the proposed golf course.

A public Enquiry into the refusal by the Planning Authority was held at the Civic Centre, Littlehampton by the Dept. of the Environment Inspectorate. Cllrs Tristram and Milburn attended and gave evidence on behalf of the parish council. The appeal was successful giving the go-ahead for the development.

Mr P. Brown from W.S.C. Planning Dept., attended a meeting on 4th May by request to give information on the proposed Sussex Local Environmental Action Forum which is promoting community action plans. Three villages in W. Sussex were needed to produce pilot schemes. Walberton had been selected to take part.

The key assessments would be: 1) The quality of the environment now; 2) Threats to that environment and 3) Needs for the future leading to action. The parish council would not do the work but a meeting would be called to find interested parties with some expertise. The Sussex Rural Community Council would co-ordinate the exercise. The parish council approved the scheme.

A new seat to replace the one stolen from outside Binsted Church has now been completed and set into the wall. The materials were supplied free of charge by the churchwarden, Mr D. Tristram. The labour charge of £63 was paid by the parish council.

Activities at Little Danes Wood are still causing concern to both the parish and Arun District Council.

An agreement has been made between the Home Office and Arun District Council for an increase in the number of life sentence and long term prisoners at Ford Open Prison for a three year trial period, after much opposition from the local community.

Mrs Carol Williams, headteacher of the Walberton and Binsted school, retires from her post.

The council are considering the problems of repairing current equipment in the children's play area and the installation of new items. Mrs Burch and Mrs Pilkington of the Mothers and Toddlers Group were invited to a meeting of the Playing Field Committee to give their views. The cost of just repairing the damaged slide could amount to £800 - £1,000. Subsequent to this meeting, a Walberton Play Area Action Group has been formed to raise funds to help provide a range of new equipment.

The event to commemorate the Centenary of the parish council is planned for 15th October.

## Conclusion

The foregoing is but a resume of some interesting events and problems that have been dealt with by the parish council during its first one hundred years. Some items that are routine matters or of a minor nature are recorded here to show the regular, recurring aspects of life in the village that may possibly be with us still in 2094. The work of councillors is not confined solely to the regular bi-monthly meetings of the full council. The council have four committees: General Purposes, Finance, Playing Fields, and Planning. All councillors serve on one or more of these committees which meet regularly and report to the full council at its statutory meetings.

Councillors also represent Walberton on many public bodies, such as the Arun Association of Local Councils, the Sussex Association of Local Councils, the Police Consultative Committee, the Crime Prevention Panel of the local police area, the Walberton Parish Hall Committee and the Governing Body of Walberton and Binsted School. Nominated members also attend the six-monthly meetings between Arun District Council and all Parish and Town Councils within the District.

The planning committee examines between 60 and 80 planning applications per year for the Walberton Parish area alone and submits observations on them all to the Planning Authority whether it be objection, support or other specific observation. It also keeps a

weather eye on planning applications beyond its boundaries that may affect Walberton indirectly.

For the past one hundred years public spirited members of this small community have served, purely voluntarily and without political motive, as parish councillors in an effort to sustain and, if possible, improve the quality of life for all within the parish. On many occasions their efforts may be frustrated but there can be great satisfaction when a worthy objective has been achieved. It is to be hoped that like-minded people will come forward to serve during the second century of Walberton Parish Council.

When the present Government Commission on Local Government has completed its report relating to the future of county and district councils, there will probably be quite radical changes and a new Local Government Act. The one redeeming feature of the exercise is the Government's firm commitment that parish councils will remain. They do really represent democracy at the grass roots. Don't let the grass roots wither.

September 1994

D. J. Milburn  
The Green, Walberton.

