



WISHING ALL OUR RESIDENTS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

# News

## Slinfold Parish Council

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## News from your Parish Council

Welcome to the Winter 2017 issue of **Parish Council News**. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the parish and aims to keep all residents in touch with matters that may be of interest, including the Parish Council's activities and forthcoming meetings. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity

to thank everyone who provided articles for the previous editions. The next newsletter will come out in early summer. If you have something that you would like included in that edition, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back cover).

### A new tradition – Christmas tree makes its debut

Residents of the village enjoyed a tree lighting ceremony and carols as well as delicious mince pies and mulled wine on Friday 8th December. The Parish Council would like to thank Professor David and Mrs Penelope Glaister for allowing us to put the tree on their lawn outside the Old Post Office. We would also like to thank Furze Firs and Slinfold Golf & Country Club for their sponsorship of the tree and lights and of course Santa too who came along to say Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas.



### Slinfold Village Stores – under new management

Many of you will be aware that the village shop has been experiencing difficulties of late and we know that this has been a major inconvenience to residents. The good news is that the shop is now under new management. Each quarter, the Parish Council's Shop and Post Office Committee will meet to review plans for the future. Samantha Graycon who has recently taken over and has this to say ***"Please come in and support us. We are restocked and actively sourcing local produce. Fresh meat and more extensive chilled products are coming soon. I look forward to seeing you in the shop"***.

### Books, books and more books

Just a quick reminder that your village has its own library. May we take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in providing this wonderful facility for the village and also a huge thank you too to all those who have very kindly donated books.



### \*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\*

#### Diary date!

Next year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the evening of Friday 6th April 2018. The 2017 meeting was very well attended with talks from individuals and community groups and the opportunity for members of the public to visit the exhibitions on display. If you would like to tell us about the great work that your community organisation is doing or put on a display at the 2018 meeting, please contact the Clerk.

# TRAFFIC MATTERS



## Traffic management scheme for the Village



The Parish Council is fully aware of the concern of some of the residents of Slinfold regarding the increase in traffic flow and speed of vehicles through the village and is sympathetic to these concerns. The feasibility of introducing a community driven traffic management scheme for the centre of the village is to be investigated. In the New Year we shall

be consulting all residents of the parish to establish their views on the implementation of a scheme. In the meantime, we would be delighted to hear from anyone who wishes to make useful and constructive comments. Please address your comments by email to Councillor Nick Parker [n.parker@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:n.parker@slinfold-pc.gov.uk). Thank you

## Slinfold Community Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join together, with the

support of the Police, to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow.

The Slinfold group has now been authorised, nine speed monitoring sites throughout the village have been risk assessed and 19 volunteers trained. The group hopes to start speed monitoring towards the end of November holding regular sessions thereafter. Statistics will be published in the Parish magazine and in this publication twice yearly.

Volunteers receive appropriate training, and are supported by our neighbourhood policing team (NPT) staff. The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending, in order to:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

If you are concerned about aggressive driving and speeding cars, we need your help. You can give as little or as much time as you like but please do get involved and help this new initiative which aims to make our roads safer for the local community, motorists passing through and the local wildlife.

Please either register on: [www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/WIZ-FRONT-GetInvolved-exist-2.php](http://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/WIZ-FRONT-GetInvolved-exist-2.php), Select County: Sussex; District: Horsham; Group: Slinfold and continue from there or contact: [SlinfoldSpeedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:SlinfoldSpeedwatch@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support.



## Clerk's corner

Hello again, another year that has whizzed by! 2017 has been a busy year for me but a most enjoyable one. Your councillors do a fantastic job representing the interests of the parish and their enthusiasm for helping their community continues to be infectious. Your Parish Council really does make a difference and in this newsletter you can read about the great work that has been done this year and some exciting new projects on the cards for 2018.

Winter is upon us and with Christmas fast approaching I would like to draw your attention to some of the more seasonal articles in this newsletter. Make a note of where your nearest salt bin is should you need it and browse <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/get-ready-for-winter/> for some good practical advice; check that the drains outside your home run freely to minimise the risk of flooding and consider cutting back your overhanging hedges and trees that border the footpath or highway as they can cause serious injury to passers-by. Sussex Police have issued a warning to Christmas shoppers and revellers to keep a close watch on personal property. Be extra vigilant with security at home and when out and about celebrating as the festive season approaches; don't let thieves spoil your Christmas.

The Parish Council is keen to hear from vulnerable people in the village

who may need support during severe weather. If you, or a neighbour, would welcome a call should the snow descend this winter, just to check that all is well, please call me or drop me a line.

Unfortunately, Dennis, our Environment Officer left earlier this year and we must thank him for doing a great job keeping the village looking clean and tidy. John Pilkington is helping out until we recruit a new Environment Officer. If you are looking to keep fit and would like to help your community at the same time, then we have a part time paid position that may be ideal for you. If this is something that may be of interest to you, check out the advert and give me a call, my details are on the back page.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Kind regards  
your Clerk Mary**





## Village car park – available for all to use outside school hours

Just a reminder that the school car park is available for village use outside of school working hours. If you are using the village's amenities for your gathering / celebration / event, then please encourage your attendees to use the car park rather than parking around the streets of the village. Thank you for your co-operation!

## West Sussex Mediation Service



**Finding solutions to everyday problems in the community**

*Noise, Abuse, Hedges, Boundaries, Antisocial behaviour, Parking, Pets, etc.*

**Alternative Dispute Resolution**

**01403 258 900**

email: [info@wsms.org.uk](mailto:info@wsms.org.uk)  
[www.wsms.org.uk](http://www.wsms.org.uk)  
**West Sussex Mediation Service**  
 Registered Charity No. 1084592

Our service is free, independent, confidential and uses fully trained mediators.

Please get in touch if you think we might be able to help.

**West Sussex Mediation Service [www.wsms.org.uk](http://www.wsms.org.uk)** – offer a range of free mediation services to Slinfold residents, including Community Mediation (neighbour disputes), Intergenerational Mediation (conflicts within families), Elder Mediation (for issues revolving around later living) and Conflict Coaching (to help one side in a dispute when the other party won't engage in formal mediation). If you think you would benefit from their assistance, you can contact them on 01403 258900 / 257800 or e-mail [info@wsms.org.uk](mailto:info@wsms.org.uk)

## Chairman's Message



As I have the great honour of laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day, it is great reminder to me that we have a responsibility to previous generations, let alone to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. In this sense, we are only custodians of our world, or in this case our little world of Slinfold, for future generations. I strongly believe that it is therefore incumbent on your Parish Council to preserve our quality of life and ensure that it is passed on in a better state than we found it.

So, I am always impressed and somewhat humbled that whenever I meet newcomers to our village, they remark on how they have sought to live here for the lifestyle and community that Slinfold offers. We will be welcoming more new residents next year as the homes built on the Cherry Tree site are occupied, so our village family continues to grow, and I look forward to receiving our new residents.

Indeed, this year has seen a wide range of activities sponsored by the council to engage with the community; from the Village Day to the Senior Citizen's lunch, which I hope will become calendar fixtures. We have supported Age UK in tackling isolation and loneliness as well as West Sussex Mediation to ensure harmonious relationships between neighbours. Both causes are worthy of your further support in bringing people closer together.

And for our health and wellbeing we will shortly be putting up signs to mark our Circular Village Walk and for the young we are fortunate to have an excellent youth worker and Friday night's youth club has been a roaring success. Elsewhere, our Scout Group is thriving but efforts to find them a new hut have proved disappointing. They are not going to be homeless until 2024 but something needs to be done to resolve the dilapidated building they use currently. We will be working hard to support them further, hopefully to find a new home.

Many of you may have forgotten that, in all the furore surrounding the General Election earlier this year, we held Elections for new County Councillors in West Sussex preceding this. We were fortunate to return Christian Mitchell as our Councillor for our Division. Christian was quick to follow up on our request for various Highways improvements, which has already resulted in approval for yellow lines to be installed in front of our War Memorial. This will facilitate a safer flow of traffic around this blind bend by introducing a passing place for cars, and of course the bus, as well as reducing the collateral damage caused by vehicles 'backing up'.

Finally, this is the time of the year when we set our precept (the amount of money the Parish receives from your Council Tax Bills) which is about 10% of the total charge you pay in Council Tax. While we are fortunate to have some reserves, we are mindful of our obligations to manage our finances responsibly to ensure that there is adequate provision to sustain our stewardship of our little corner of West Sussex. Details of the precept for 2018-19 can be found under 'Money Matters'.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and all your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mark Wellesley-Wood, Chairman**

# Inaugural Senior Citizens Lunch

On Monday 25th September, the Parish Council hosted its first Senior Citizens lunch. We would like to thank everyone who attended and all those who helped make it such a resounding success.

Word on the grapevine is that there is to be another lunch early in the New Year. If you missed the last one, are over 65 and would like to join us, please contact Jane on 790702 or Hilary on 790403. We are looking forward to hosting the next one already.



## Social Media and Community Events

Want to find out more about what's happening in your parish? Then why not ask to join the Slinfold Parish Facebook page? Also, soon to be released, is a Slinfold Events Calendar where you can check out What's On in Slinfold and add your own event.

Look out for more information on the Slinfold Parish Facebook page or on the Parish Council website at [www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

## Overhanging Vegetation

Please take a look to see if your hedges or trees overhang a footpath or road. Footpaths and roads can be dangerously narrowed by overhanging vegetation. At the moment some hedges in Hayes Lane are dangerously narrowing the footpaths!



Please spare a thought for the elderly, blind, wheelchair and pushchair users on footpaths and ensure that your hedgerow is regularly trimmed, so that they are not forced to walk into the road. You run the risk of formal notice from the County Council if you fail to keep overhanging vegetation under control, and could even face legal action from an injured member of the public.

## Age UK Horsham



**Are you or a loved one over 50 and looking for that little bit of extra support?**

Age UK Horsham District provides a variety of services, many of which are free.

Since 1st April 2017 we have supported 39 people living Slinfold.

Please get in touch, whether your problems are big or small. If you want to find out how best to get involved with others or you need that little bit of extra support – we are your first port of call. We will work with you to find the best solution for you.

Give us  
a call on  
**01403  
260560**



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### PART-TIME VACANCY ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Flexible hours – 10 hours per week

Salary: £100 per week

Opportunity to keep fit and active and work on own initiative. The successful applicant will take pride in keeping the village clean and tidy and will be required to assist with the inspection and general maintenance of Parish Council assets

**Apply now by emailing Mary on  
[clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk) or  
telephone 01403 785864**

Closing date: 13th January 2018

**Age UK Horsham District [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)** – provide a variety of services, many of which are free. Are you or a loved one over 50 and looking for that little bit of extra support? The services include Home Visits, Help at Home, Home from Hospital / Relative Support, Village Agent services, local Day Clubs and Clubs for people with dementia as well as information and advice. To find out more, contact 01403 260560 or e-mail [info@ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk).

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

## Clean energy for Slinfold's community

Slinfold Parish Council is applying for a grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) to assess the potential for renewable energy systems, bringing benefits to our community.

We plan to assess the potential for solar PV panels and solar thermal at the Village Hall – supplying low cost, low carbon electricity and heat to the Hall, and possibly neighbouring buildings and businesses including the shop. We also want to look at the Football Club on Hayes Lane, where ground source heat pumps could be installed. At the moment, these buildings use electric heating and heating oil, which are very expensive and have high levels of carbon emissions.

Installing renewable energy systems at these sites will help reduce running costs, and generate additional income through financial incentives, which we could use in a number of different ways



in the Parish. As part of this project, we will be taking input on what would be the best use of these benefits. We want to reduce the environmental impact of the village, and hope this scheme will help us become a greener and more prosperous community.

Our selected partner for the feasibility study is Carbon Smart, renewable energy experts delivering projects like this for other parishes, charities, and community groups [www.carbonsmart.co.uk](http://www.carbonsmart.co.uk)

More details on the project will be announced as the work progresses.

## Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan Update

Horsham District Council (HDC) having re-run its own consultation on our Neighbourhood Plan are now back on track and our Examiner is well into his job and working closely with HDC. The process is a written one and it doesn't appear that the Examiner feels the need for any face to face examination. HDC advise that it is important that he comes to an arms-length independent conclusion so at present contact is minimal. We do know that he has inspected the Parish on his own so if you have seen anyone looking around, that may have been him!

Next steps are the Examiner's report being issued, which we hope will be before Christmas, and then the referendum. With the national context of ever more focus on growth and homes it would seem we are in a good place with our Plan to have the right number of homes delivered in the right places over the next 20 years rather than an on-going free for all.

*Ed Skeates, Chairman of the NP Working Group*

## MONEY MATTERS

### Annual Accounts

The Parish Council's annual accounts to 31 March 2017 have now been signed off by PKF Littlejohn PLC, our external auditors, and are available on our website [www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk) under "Accounts".

### Precept Requirements 2018-2019

The precept is the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council from Horsham District Council (HDC). For 2018-19, there will be an inflationary increase of £1.62 per year, or 2.7% for a Band D property. As always, we are keen to ensure that our priorities and initiatives reflect the wishes of the electorate. If you have any ideas or suggestions on expenditure to be included in the annual precept calculation, we would be most pleased to hear from you.



## Better Connected – how fast is your broadband?

West Sussex County Council's 'Better Connected' project aims to bring faster broadband to West Sussex and the County Council claims to have made it possible for 90% of the county to enjoy better, faster broadband, building on the commercial roll out by telecommunication suppliers. WSCC wants to push even further in 2018 and provide 'superfast' broadband coverage to even more premises.

We would therefore like to encourage residents who are suffering slow broadband speeds of less than 2mpbs to visit the website [www.westsussex-betterconnected.org.uk](http://www.westsussex-betterconnected.org.uk) to find out what services are available to you.

In the past, the Parish Council has been able to help some residents improve their broadband speeds and we would like to help again if we can. If having checked out the website above, faster broadband is not available to you even if you sign up for fibre or change provider, then we would like to hear from you. Please email your name, landline telephone number and address to [clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk) with a note of the speeds you currently achieving.

## Life-changing trip for Slinfold Explorer Scout

Slinfold Parish Council was delighted to be able to contribute to Maddie Williams' expedition to Tanzania to help build a school for girls. Maddie applied and was approved for a grant from the Parish Council – in return she sent us a full report on her trip, which we are sure many of you have seen through the Parish Facebook page or Village Magazine.

We were particularly happy to help as it is a big honour for a Scout from our village and Scout Group to have the opportunity to take part in this venture. We are proud to hear that Maddie made the most of the trip and is determined to return as a leader.

Please do continue to apply for grants from the Parish Council – it only entails completing a form and sending it to our Clerk.

# Your Parish Council

For further information visit the Parish Council website [www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

## Clerk and Financial Officer:

### Mary Burroughs

Address: PO Box 315  
Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9XX

Telephone: 01403 785864

Mobile: 07733 359479

Email: [clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

## Environment Officer:

Environment Officer: John Pilkington is out and about in the village on a regular basis. If you are concerned about a particular area that needs attention please call the Clerk.

## Chairman:

### Mr Mark Wellesley-Wood

Telephone: 01403 790120

Email: [wcswood@aol.com](mailto:wcswood@aol.com)

## Parish Councillors

**Neil Beer** 01403 241271

[n.beer@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:n.beer@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Graham Brett** 01403 790784

[g.brett@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:g.brett@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Nic Lewis** 01403 791787

[n.lewis@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:n.lewis@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Thomas Nicklin** 01403 790604

[t.nicklin@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:t.nicklin@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Nick Parker** 01403 790505

[n.parker@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:n.parker@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Adrian Roberts** 01403 791464

[a.roberts@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:a.roberts@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Hilary Sherwin-Smith**

01403 790403

[Hilary@Sherwin-Smith.com](mailto:Hilary@Sherwin-Smith.com)

**Edward Skeates** 01403 790037

[e.skeates@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:e.skeates@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Jane Slipper** 01403 790702

[janeslipper@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeslipper@yahoo.co.uk)

**Gael Stenton-Chandler**

01403 790149

[g.stenton-chandler@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:g.stenton-chandler@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

**Mark Wellesley-Wood**

01403 790120

[wcswood@aol.com](mailto:wcswood@aol.com)

## Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings: meetings are open to the public and the press (who have a right to attend) and are preceded by a session for public comments. Council meetings take place in the Parish Room at the Village Hall. Visit our website at [www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk) for agendas and minutes of previous meetings or view the notice board at the bus shelter in The Street, or in the Village Shop. Start times can vary but usually are 7:30pm.

## Forthcoming meetings 2018

Thursday 25 January 2018	Parish Council
Thursday 13 February 2018	Highways, Recreation & The Environment
Thursday 22 January 2018	Parish Council
Thursday 1 March 2018	Shop & Post Office
Thursday 15 March 2018	Finance
Thursday 29 March 2018	Parish Council
Friday 6 April 2018	Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 19 April 2018	Finance
Thursday 26 April 2018	Parish Council
Thursday 16 May 2018	Highways, Recreation & The Environment
Thursday 31 May 2018	Annual Council Meeting
Tuesday 5 June 2018	Shop & Post Office
Thursday 28 June 2018	Parish Council

## District Councillors

**Patricia Youtan**

[tricia.youtan@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:tricia.youtan@horsham.gov.uk)

**Stuart Ritchie**

[stuart.ritchie@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.ritchie@horsham.gov.uk)

## County Councillor

**Christian Mitchell**

[christian.mitchell@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:christian.mitchell@westsussex.gov.uk)

## Useful Numbers

**Sussex Police:** Call 101 or email [HorshamNPT@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:HorshamNPT@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

## Don't Tolerate it, Report it

Residents often contact the Clerk about problems around the village, which she duly forwards to the relevant authority. Please be aware that problems can also be reported directly to either Horsham District Council (for matters such as dog fouling, problems with the Acorn Plus scheme, fly tipping or fly posting, full litter or dog litter bins) or West Sussex County Council (for matters such as pot holes, dangerous footpaths, hedges encroaching on WSCC's Highways, blocked drains) etc. Their contact details are:

**Horsham District Council:** 01403 215100 or visit [www.horsham.gov.uk](http://www.horsham.gov.uk)

**West Sussex County Council:** 01243 777100 or visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

**West Sussex County Council (Highways):** 01243 642105 visit <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk> or install the app from your App store.

