



Slinfold Parish Council

News

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News from your Parish Council

Welcome to the winter issue of Parish Council News for 2019. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the Parish (around 900) and aims to keep all residents in touch with matters that may be of interest, including the Parish Council's activities and forthcoming meetings. If you have something that you would like to see in the next edition which will come out in June 2020, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back page).

Tackling climate change



We would like the community to get involved in an exciting new initiative starting in 2020 called SLINFOLD 100. The aim is to plant 100 new trees in the parish next year and every year thereafter for as long as it is feasible.

Tree planting 'has mind-blowing potential' to tackle climate crisis. Billions more trees, scientists claim, could remove two-thirds of all the carbon dioxide created by human activity. Such a programme might take 100 years to be fully effective, but along the way it would reduce the consequences of the climate crisis – protecting soil from erosion, reducing the risk of flooding and providing

habitats for a vast range of animals and other plant species.

We would like to think that Slinfold could play a small part in saving the planet. Alongside tree planting, we also have a budget to purchase some bat and owl boxes, all we need now is a group of 'tackle climate change volunteers' to work alongside the Parish Council to make this happen.

Do you know a great place for one, two or perhaps 10 trees or could you spare a little time to make this happen for your community? **If so we would love to hear from you. Please drop an email to clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk and we shall be in touch, thank you.**



Carols by the Christmas Tree

Friday 6th December

A great time was had by all once again as residents of the parish enjoyed singing carols by the christmas tree with The Slinfold Concert Band. The Parish Council would like to thank the band and as always 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 Sam Graycon, Slinfold Village Stores for supplying the delicious mince pies and mulled wine and of course Santa Claus who flew in with his reindeers and sack of goodies for the children and to wish everyone a Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas.

STOP PRESS

A date for your diary

May Day is traditionally held on a Monday but will be put back to Friday 8 May 2020. VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. Slinfold PC will be hosting celebrations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE day on Sunday 10th May 2020. Keep that day free and come and join in the celebrations.



Annual Parish Meeting

Friday 24th April 2020

Would your community group like to come along and say a few words, recruit new members and share all the good work that your group does with an exhibition? If so, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Chairman's report *by Chairman Neil Beer*



As we approach the end of 2019, I would like to thank all Councillors, our Parish Clerk, Environment Officers and many volunteers for the time and effort they put in to help our local community.

Our Youth Club keeps going strong - with some 40 young people attending some weeks. Many thanks to the youth workers and to the volunteers who support this important service.

Planning has been a major part of the work of the Council this year. Development has started on the Spring Lane site, which was included in the Neighbourhood Plan. An application is being prepared for the Crosby Farm site, and the Council's views are being taken into account, particularly on footpaths, through early discussions. Re-development at the former Welwyn site is progressing: the Council is aware of the consequent disruption to local residents and is pleased to advise that we are working with the developer to minimise this. Once the access road has been completed, there should be fewer vehicles trying to park on Hayes Lane. The Council is aware of two other applications for major developments: an application has been submitted for a care village, Lyons Farm, which the Council is objecting to, and a residential development north of Park

Street and west of Clappgate Lane, for which an application has not yet been submitted. The Council is opposed to both of these as they are not part of our Neighbourhood Plan. Horsham District Council is beginning a review of the District's Local Plan, which will no doubt affect our Neighbourhood Plan and we may need to review this next year.

Councillors have been trying to get improvements made to the drainage on and around Hayes Lane. The gullies, trash screens and drain covers have been cleared on a number of occasions and I hope that local residents have seen and will respond to requests for them to help keep these clear. We are exploring options to improve the drainage as part of the Welwyn development, and will be discussing other options with West Sussex County Council in December.

In recent months there have been intensive discussions between the Parish Council, Horsham District Council, Saxon Weald and the Slinfold Scouts about potential options for the Scout Hut. Saxon Weald will be re-developing the Cobblers soon – which will be a great improvement as the present accommodation is outdated, and we are trying to ensure that the re-development will deliver a number of smaller units to meet the needs of local residents, particularly elderly people. As part of this, it may be possible to improve the present Scout Hut or to build a new one. Nothing has been finalised yet, but any such arrangement is going to be complex, and will require significant

funding. See the article from the Scouts below, I hope you will help if you can.

There are new, and energetic, tenants at the Red Lyon. It is good to see the pub being revitalised, and it's usually busy whenever I go past. As we approach the holiday season, drop in (or drop in again!). Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Your Scout Group needs you!

Slinfold Scout Group are once more involved in discussions about the future of our Scout Hut. We are a thriving group of some 80+ children and 20 leaders in a central location within the Village and very sadly our Scout Hut is badly in need of replacement.

What we would like to do is put together a list of useful skills and contacts that we could call upon as and when the need arises. So, with that in mind, we would like to ask all of you in Slinfold Village and beyond, if you have any handy skills or qualifications that you feel would be useful to us in the fundraising, planning, development etc. of a new hut, or if you know somebody that could help, i.e., a Surveyor or Building Design Architect.

If you may be able to help in anyway or perhaps know someone who can, please get in touch with us at gslslinfold@horshamscouts.com or chairslinfold@horshamscouts.com

Kayla Glover and Sam Jozwiak, GSL and Chair of Slinfold Scout Group.



A Men's Shed

by Councillor Hilary Sherwin-Smith

So what is a Men's Shed? – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. It may look like a garden shed but the difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

Sheds are whatever the members (or Shedders) want them to be. Many Sheds get involved in community projects too – restoring village features, helping maintain parks and green spaces, and building things for schools, libraries and individuals in need.

Activities in Sheds vary greatly, but you can usually find woodworking, repairing and restoring and perhaps

even a bit of gardening. Whilst sheds may typically attract men in their senior years, younger members and women will be most welcome too.

Whatever the activity, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the connections and relationships between its members. If this is something that would interest you please contact Cllr. Hilary Sherwin-Smith on 790403.



Community Highways Scheme for Traffic Calming

In 2018, you may recall that the Parish Council submitted an application to West Sussex County Council (WSSC) for a community highways scheme for the centre of the village. It was hoped that a scheme could be introduced to slow traffic down and improve safety. Unfortunately Slinfold’s scheme proposal scored a total of 36 points and therefore failed to meet WSSC’s minimum requirement of 40.

This year we have met with Chris Stark, Area Highways Manager, WSSC and our County Councillor, Christian Mitchell to discuss our needs in more detail. It is hoped that we can make a further proposal in 2020 that may have a better chance of meeting requirements and progressing to a design and cost stage. The scheme could improve sustainable transport and may include a new 20 mph speed limit, improved gateways and road markings, new build-outs and a raised table in the centre of the village as well as making improvements to cycling and walking opportunities, all of which will need to be sustainable and safe.

In the meantime we would like to hear from you as to whether you may be in support or against such a scheme.

Development of land at Clapgate Lane and Stane Street Have Your Say

The Parish Council has been advised that a publication on behalf of Seaward Properties has been mail-dropped around the parish. This publication is misleading as it would suggest that these developments are supported by Slinfold Parish Council. Please note that this is not the case and this was conveyed quite clearly to the developer and their agent at the July 2019 full council meeting.

To clarify one early point made in the mail drop i.e. the point regarding ‘kindly being invited to present’, this suggests that it was at the Parish Council’s request that Seaward Ltd present their schemes. This was not the case, in fact it was Seaward Properties Ltd who in June 2019 asked if they could come along to present their proposal to the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to this request and at the July meeting, with an open forum attended by around 30 members of the public, two schemes for 280 dwellings were presented.

- Objections raised at the July meeting included: -
- Not in the Neighbourhood Plan and outside the village boundary
 - Concern for flooding;
 - Access to the developments are not practical;
 - No consideration to the infrastructure required e.g. schools, doctors etc. Slinfold could not sustain further large developments.

**A low response rate could possibly indicate that Slinfold is not averse to the development that Seaward is proposing so please make your views known (good or bad). Please don't be complacent, have your say and take the opportunity to reply and share your thoughts by emailing Luken Beck at slinfold@lukenbeck.com
Copy your District Councillor and Parish Clerk in too so that they can record your views.**



Clerk's Corner

I can't believe that I have been your Parish Clerk for more than 12 years. How time flies.

In this newsletter there are lots of articles highlighting the good work that the Parish Council does and this could not be achieved without the great ideas, dedication, time and hard work that councillors give to help make Slinfold the wonderful parish that it is. I

personally would like to thank them all as well as our Environment Officers, Tim and Jon for their commitment and contribution to parish life.

There is no shortage of potential projects that we would like to get cracking on including the introduction of a man shed and a few allotments, traffic management/calming, improved community facilities, protection of the environment with some climate changing measures and the introduction of renewable energy.

In addition to plans for the future we need to keep close tabs on the developments as agreed in the Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) e.g. Spring Lane, Crosby Farm, The Cobblers etc. which as well as Welwyn are all now in the pipeline. It is important that plans are in

line with expectations and that there is the minimum of disruption to residents. There are also others proposals not in the plan that we need to defend against.

So you know what I am going to say next... we have vacancies for three councillors and I was hoping that just a few 18+ year olds from our 900+ dwellings would like to get involved and make a difference to parish life.

If you would like to talk about becoming a councillor or on any other parish related matter, I am in and around Slinfold several days a week and am always happy to meet up and discuss any issues that our residents may have. Just call me to make an appointment on 01403 785864

Busy times ahead Slinfold. Wishing You Good Health and Happiness for 2020.
Kind regards, your Clerk Mary

To keep you amused and informed



Library box



Tourist information



Noticeboards



Happy to chat benches



Facebook page

Walking & sporting opportunities at Cherry Tree



Balancing pond



Cherry Tree walk



Tennis



Football

Help if you need it



Defibrillator



Gritbins



Handrail to Downs Link

Slinfold's wonderful Parish assets

Local attractions



The Red Lyon



The Downs Link



Slinfold Village Stores

For young people in the Parish



KGV MUGA



Six Acres Kickabout



Toddlers play area at Six Acres



Friday night Youth Club



KGV play equipment

Calling all Riparian Owners of Ditches in the Parish – WSCC Awareness Initiative for Riparian Owners

A little more information in case you are not familiar with Riparian Ownership...

If you have a watercourse, ditch, stream, river or culvert on or next to your land you are known as a 'riparian owner'. Riparian owners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of watercourses on their land to ensure that they are not a flood risk to other people or property. Well maintained watercourses can significantly benefit the local community by reducing flood risk and creating habitats for wildlife.

The riparian responsibilities for landowners under law are to:

- Ensure the flow of water is not obstructed or polluted

- Maintain the bottom and sides of the watercourse (including managing any trees and vegetation growing on the banks)
- Remove any obstructions, such as rubbish, fallen branches or garden waste
- Maintain any structures (such as trash screens, culverts, weirs and mill gates) on it.

Further information is available via the WSCC website and if you have a particular question relating to Operation Watershed please go to:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/watershed
or email: operation.watershed@westsussex.gov.uk



Winter draw(er)s on... all ready for winter



There are five salt/grit bins in the parish: by the bus shelter, on the corner of Lowfield Road and Streetfield Road, at the entrance to Six Acres, outside The Village Hall and opposite the Chequers Inn, Rowhook. These have now been filled but if they require a refill then please contact the Parish Clerk.

The bins contain a mixture of salt and grit that is intended primarily for use on public footpaths that have not been treated. It is not intended for use on private areas of land. We would encourage residents to help themselves to a bucket or small bag of salt/grit and clear the area outside their properties when pavements are slippery with snow or ice. No one should fear legal action if someone falls and is injured, so long as the clearance does not make the condition of the pathway more dangerous.

Guidance on clearing snow can be found on www.direct.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway

In the event of flooding, please contact the emergency services as appropriate, and West Sussex County Council if drains are blocked

and need urgent attention. The Parish Council has a small supply of flood sacks should your property be at risk out of business hours. Flood sacks can be purchased from Travis Perkins (Crawley and Pulborough) during business hours.

Please note that our Environment Officers Tim and Jon – pictured below will be out and about clearing the main footpaths in the village but if you can't get out in the event of severe weather conditions and require assistance please contact me on 01403 785864 and we shall do our very best to help.

The Parish Council is keen to hear from any vulnerable people in the village who may need support during severe weather. If you, or a neighbour, would welcome a call during severe weather just to check that all is well, please provide details to the Parish Clerk (01403 785864).



MONEY MATTERS



Annual Accounts to 31 March 2019 and Precept Requirement 2020-21

The Parish Council's annual accounts to 31 March 2019 have been signed off by Moore, the external auditors, and are available on our website www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk under "Accounts". The accounts detail all income and expenditure for the financial year.

The precept is the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council from Horsham District Council (HDC). For 2020-21, there will be an inflationary increase of £1.87 per year from £63.18 to £65.05 (3.5p per week) or 2.96% for a Band D property.



Hedges and overhanging vegetation

Next time you step outside onto the public footpath from your home take the opportunity to see if your hedge overhangs a footpath or road. Look upwards too; are there low level overhanging branches which could cause head injury or are blocking road signs? 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. If branches or hedges are overhanging please make arrangements to have them cut.

Small Grants

The Parish Council has a small fund for helping local groups and organisations. Details of our grants policy and an application form can be found on our website at www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Your Parish Council

For further information visit the Parish Council website www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Clerk and Financial Officer:

Mary Burroughs

PO Box 315
Billingshurst,
West Sussex
RH14 9XX

Telephone: 01403 785864

Mobile: 07733 359479

Email: clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Environment Officers:

Tim Harrison and Jon Pilkington are out and about in the village on a regular basis. If you are concerned about a particular area that needs attention please email: eo@slinfold-pc.gov.uk or call the Clerk on 01403 785864.

Chairman:

Dr Neil Beer 01403 241271

n.beer@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Neil Beer

n.beer@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Shirley Haines

s.haines@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Christopher Leyland

c.leyland@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

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Edward Skeates

e.skeates@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Jane Slipper

j.slipper@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Gael Stenton-Chandler

g.stenton-chandler@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Vacancy x 3 please contact the Clerk.

District Councillors

Patricia Youtan

tricia.youtan@horsham.gov.uk

Stuart Ritchie

stuart.ritchie@horsham.gov.uk

County Councillor

Christian Mitchell

christian.mitchell@westsussex.gov.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 or footpaths, blocked drains) etc. The contact details are:

Local Authority Numbers

Horsham District Council:

01403 215100

or visit www.horsham.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council

01243 777100

or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council

(Highways):

01243 642105

visit <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk>

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 or at Cherry Tree. Visit our website at 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.

Forthcoming meetings 2020

Date	Meeting	Starting at
Thursday 30 January	Parish Council	7:30pm (VH)
Wednesday 19 February	Highways, Recreation & the Environment	6:15pm (CT)
Thursday 27 February	Parish Council	7:30pm (VH)
Wednesday 18 March	Finance	TBA (CT)
Thursday 26 March	Parish Council	7:30pm (VH)
Wednesday 22 April	Finance	TBA (CT)
Friday 24 April	Annual Parish Meeting (Main Hall)	7:00pm (VH)
Thursday 30 April	Shop & Post Office	6:45pm (VH)
Thursday 30 April	Parish Council	7:30pm (VH)
Wednesday 13 May	Highways, Recreation & the Environment	6:15pm (CT)
Thursday 28 May	Annual Council Meeting (Appoint Chair/Select Committees)	7.30pm (VH)
Thursday 25 June	Parish Council	7:30pm (VH)

CT: Cherry Tree VH: Village Hall



Bag it, Tie it, Bin it

Let's clean up dog fouling

Not cleaning up after your dog means you could receive a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice

To report dog fouling call 01403 733144



DOG FOULING - pick it up

horsham.gov.uk

