



# News

Slinfold Parish Council

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## News from your Parish Council

Welcome to the Winter 2016 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 edition of this newsletter will come out 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 page).

## Councillor Vacancy - Apply Now

Do you have the interests of your village at heart? then please consider becoming a Parish Councillor; there is currently one vacancy. This newsletter highlights some of the work that the Parish Council does on behalf of the community. Would you like to get involved and make a difference?

If the answer is yes, please come along to our council meeting on Thursday 26th January at 7:30pm. There is more information on the website as well as an application form. Also, the Clerk or any one of our Councillors would be very happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**Join the Parish Council, make a difference.**

## Slinfold Village Shop

Many of you will be aware that the Village Shop has been experiencing trading difficulties and we know this has been a major inconvenience to residents.

The Parish Council (PC) has been engaging with the Lessor and seeking advice and support from professionals and stakeholders. Whilst the PC is confined to acting within the terms of the Lease Agreement inherited from the former Village Shop Association, they are nevertheless, crucially aware of the importance of maintaining a community facility in the shop together with the provision of postal services. The PC has made it known that the current position is unacceptable and we are hopeful that improvements to the offering can soon be made.

In the meantime, we are extremely grateful to an anonymous donor who

has sponsored the new shop awning. At least the outward façade of the Shop now looks more cheerful!



Finally, those of you who have been going into the Shop will know that the staff have been working in very difficult conditions and their dedication to customers is noteworthy; we are very grateful to them for all their efforts.

## STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS:

Calling all residents that live close to The Chequers in Rowhook. The Parish Council hopes to purchase a new salt/grit bin to replace the broken bin that sits opposite the pub but would like help to transfer the contents from old to new. If you would like to help, please call Mary, the Clerk on 01403 785864, thank you.



**Hello again, another year that has whizzed by! 2016 has been an especially 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 making a difference is infectious.**

It is great to be a part of a council that really does make a difference and Slinfold Parish Council has not disappointed again this year with the installation of new play equipment at KGV, organising the Queen's Birthday celebrations, protecting the safety of residents as A2Dominian try to bring construction traffic down Hayes Lane,

persuading Gatwick to reduce aircraft noise and improving the street scene, not to mention the work that has gone on behind the scenes at Cherry Tree. Your councillors are a hardworking and friendly bunch who get things done; **we have a vacancy please think about applying.**

Winter is upon us so make a note of where your nearest salt bin is should you need it, 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. If you are a riparian ditch owner, make the most of the warmer weather and clear your ditch; there is a fund that can offer help; for more information visit [operation.watershed@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:operation.watershed@westsussex.gov.uk) I will help with your application.

In 2017, I shall continue to support the working group whose objective is to smarten up the entrance and green space around Six Acres. The group is also looking at improving access to the Downs Link. This year, we have put in a

new section of path at the pinch point and have met with contractors and the West Sussex County Council Access Ranger to progress the improvement plans. The proposals will be considered by the Parish Council early in 2017 and hopefully work will start in the Spring.

The provision of new recreational facilities at Cherry Tree is another exciting project for me to be involved with and one of my own personal objectives is to improve the council's website and review and update council policies. The Queen's 90th Birthday party earlier this year was a resounding success and I have heard a whisper that there is to be another party in 2017. Let me know if you would like to help!

Dennis, our Environment Officer does a great job keeping the village looking clean and tidy; thank you Dennis. If you need our help with village matters, our contact details are on the back page.

***Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with kind regards from' your Clerk Mary***



Many of you will have seen that enabling works to build new houses behind 1 to 25 Hayes Lane have begun but are you also aware that alongside the new housing comes developer contributions and new or improved recreational facilities? These include:-

- Contributions of £112k for Education and £47k for Highways;
- A new tennis pavilion and £18k to make improvements to the existing pavilion;
- A new football pitch and £5k towards the future maintenance of the recreational land;
- A detailed long term 25-year management plan for all the landscaped areas associated with the housing.

The developer A2Dominian provides the Parish Council with regular updates on the development and recently advised that despite deteriorating ground conditions, the football pitch levelling and drainage works are now complete and in the Spring seeding and cultivation works are contracted to commence. This is however weather dependent and will take place as soon as temperatures allow the soil to be dry enough for cultivation, irrigation management and growing periods.



The tennis pavilion is moving on apace now. The aim is for completion of the building in April 2017 but it may be completed ahead of time. Bi-weekly meetings are to be set up with the sports clubs and Parish Council to monitor progress and answer any queries.

The new car park and Cherry Tree road access is aiming for completion and handover during January 2017 at which time the old unsurfaced car park will be closed.

A2Dominian (Nancy or Clive) will be happy to answer any questions you have by email; their contact details follow



**Clive.pollock@  
a2dominion.co.uk**



**Nancy.waterhouse@  
a2dominion.co.uk**



## Parking in the village

### The School (Village) Car Park

A message for our residents and visitors to the village: Are you attending a service at the Church or a function or class in the Village Hall or School? Please note that the School (Village) car park is open outside school hours for public parking.

Also, a polite request, even though there are no parking restrictions in front of the war memorial, the Parish Council would kindly ask that drivers refrain from parking on the bend; i.e. please



leave a gap so that vehicles meeting on the bend may pass.

### Traffic Regulation Order outside the school

There are to be new restrictions regarding parking/stopping outside the school; 'no stopping on the zig-zag lines 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday' will be enforceable. Most people see zig zag lines and believe that no parking or stopping is permitted at any time, please note that this is not the case outside the school; drivers may park on the zig-zag lines outside the specified times.

## Bag it, Tie it, Bin it

Regretfully, complaints of the unnecessary addition of dog faeces on many of our lovely walks and open spaces are on the increase. To those who do not pick up after their beloved pooch, please don't leave home without a supply of poo bags and watch your dog when off the leash; don't let them wander off and do their business unattended.



**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



## Chairman's message

**I was very honoured to take over the Chair from Camilla Gibson earlier this year because I know, we have a very talented and experienced Parish Council. I am always impressed how selfless our Councillors are in giving their time freely to serve the Parish and the results they can achieve for our community. They contribute greatly to making Slinfold a village people want to live in.**

So, we now have faster Broadband, fabulous new facilities in the KGV children's play area, a Neighbourhood Plan which will restrict overdevelopment, nearing completion, and, at Cherry Tree we will soon be getting a new football pitch and improved facilities for the Tennis Club. Looking ahead, you will soon see new benches and we have bought the telephone box! Yes, the red one outside the shop. Since we all now use our mobiles these iconic items of street furniture are redundant to BT, so we are going to convert it into a small library.

Even Gatwick is giving us some respite at the moment and I am sure many of you will have heaved a huge sigh of relief when the Government

announced that it has decided to follow the recommendation of the Davis Commission and build the extra runway at Heathrow. I cannot claim that our lobbying affected the decision, but it was certainly one voice amongst the many.

We are now hunkering down for winter; grit bins are full and winter plans with the County Council are in place. Following the work done by Operation Watershed our drainage infrastructure is working more efficiently and we have not experienced any further flooding – but let's keep our fingers crossed on that one.

The one area of concern we have though is the future of our Village Shop, and I comment further on this elsewhere in this newsletter.

I would like to express my gratitude for all the hard work our Clerk performs on our behalf. We are very fortunate to have Mary Burroughs, who must be one of the most experienced Parish Clerks in the Horsham district and this was recognised by her when she recently gave up her duties at Broadbridge Heath and opted to work for Slinfold

alone. A wise choice I must say, and one we should all be grateful for. Mary acts as the glue which binds us all together.

We have also welcomed some new recruits recently in Nic Lewis and Thomas Nicklin and welcomed a returning face in Hilary Sherwin-Smith. So, I am privileged to represent a great team. Sadly, we said farewell to Simon Bailey, who has moved to Chichester. Simon was Chairman of the Finance Committee; he will be missed. We are advertising for a new councillor now; be sure to apply if you would like to help your community.

I should also like to mention our representatives on other Councils. Patricia Youtan, our District Councillor, who lives in the village, attends all our meetings and is tireless in representing the views of Slinfold in the Horsham District forum. Liz Kitchen performs a similar task as our West Sussex County Councillor.

At Christmas, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful time. Your Parish Council is looking forward to an exciting 2017 and I extend my best wishes for your own New Year.

**Mark Wellesley-Wood**  
Chairman



## Slinfold Conservation Group

A while back, a group of us had a go at clearing a section of the Downs Link between Hayes Lane and the Caravan Park. We asked for volunteers through the Parish Newsletter and had quite a few come along to help on two separate occasions. We thought we would try and recreate a wildflower meadow along this section as it had once been before. Although a meadow takes many years to establish, we have already managed to introduce species that will help this process take place including yellow rattle which flowered here last summer.

Some years ago, there was a conservation group in Slinfold, made up of volunteers and since we began restoring this bank, several residents have expressed sadness that this group no longer exists. So, inspired by this and the great response to the work already started we have decided to launch a new Slinfold Conservation Group.

One of our aims is to continue the work on the meadow, encouraging



wild flowers but maybe also creating and managing other habitats along this stretch of embankment. If we can encourage enough support, we could also take on other projects such as the ecology area above the football field at Cherry Tree. Work would take place a few times during the year – mostly in the autumn and winter when birds aren't nesting; and any help you could offer would be very welcome.

This is an opportunity to improve our green spaces as well as learning new skills such as habitat creation, coppicing, hedge-laying, carrying out surveys and recording species. We have the support of the Parish Council

and the West Sussex County Council Rangers who may be able to provide us with possible funding requirements in the future.

In these unsettling times when there is so much emphasis and planning around building new houses in our beautiful parish, we have an opportunity to create and preserve some special places and protect them for future generations.

**We can only achieve as much as people are willing to get involved. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Lesley Day 01403 790167, [wellingtondays@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wellingtondays@hotmail.co.uk) or Rob Sims on 791045 or [korkysims@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:korkysims@hotmail.co.uk) or John Burrell on 790477, [burrellfamily@talktalk.net](mailto:burrellfamily@talktalk.net)**

## Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group update

Whilst it may seem quiet on the Neighbourhood Plan front, things have been far from quiet from both a national and local perspective. In Derbyshire, for the first time ever, a neighbourhood plan was voted down at its own referendum which is the last and final stage of the plan making process. Closer to home, Horsham District Council (HDC) has had a number of problems, including the examiner at Storrington determining the plan was not suitable to go forward and more dramatically at Henfield, where a judge overruled the examiner's findings and said that the Henfield plan, which was approved, should be quashed, also a first.

In light of all these events, it is no surprise that HDC is feeling a little sensitive around forthcoming Neighbourhood Plans and in a recent letter from HDC's Head of Planning, Chris Lyons, neighbourhood plans were offered more help with the process.

### So, where are we with the current Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan?

This time last year, the public consultation event was very well attended and gave a clear steer to the working group for the shape of the emerging plan. By May of this year, a first draft had been presented to the parish for comments and literally hundreds of comments were taken on board. In parallel, HDC gave the working group a clear steer on several issues (clearly influenced by their experiences elsewhere on some of the other more controversial Neighbourhood Plans).

The guidance from HDC focused on two areas; employment space and local green spaces. On two of the sites which included conversion of some employment land to residential (Nowhurst and Bridge House Equestrian), HDC felt the loss of employment space inappropriate and in one case, the landowner withdrew his support. The large area of local green space that we were intending to allocate in the central fields was considered too large by HDC in the light of recent interpretations of national planning policy.

In response to the consultation comments, we are now at the stage of finalising the final draft. The major changes from the plan seen in May 2016 are the withdrawal of the Nowhurst and Bridge House sites from the plan and a revision of the central fields local green space to include the pub field and the new Village Green adjacent to the 'End of West Way' proposal.

We are now in the process of submitting all our supporting evidence and the Final Plan to Horsham District Council for it to undertake its own six-week consultation before the Plan can be registered for examination. We know that examiners are severely stretched at the moment and waiting lists are between four and six months. Consequently, current estimates for the examination of the Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan is circa mid-2017.

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in the process so far for their dedication and hard work and to the residents who provided feedback on the plan. For more information visit [www.slinfoldnplan.org](http://www.slinfoldnplan.org)**

We will keep you posted.

*Ed Skeates, Chair Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, November 2016*

# Community Youth Worker update

## Slinfold Youth Club

In September, the Slinfold Youth Club (SYC) went from running on the first and third Friday of each month to every Friday. The club currently runs from 6:30pm until 8:00pm in winter and spring term time and 7:30pm until 9:00pm in the summer term. We have had the joy of welcoming all the new year 6's and welcomed back the old cohort. This has all been possible thanks to our great team of volunteers.

We meet in the Village Hall where throughout the evening we have games, crafts and other activities. It is a great opportunity for young people to hang out with their friends in a safe space. If you are in school years 6 to 8, come along and join in the fun. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Where have we been and what are we doing?

We have organised several social outings this year including most recently a trip to Airhop. At Christmas, there will be a film night and in the February half term we will be running a pop up skate-park in a local warehouse. There will be two mobile skate parks and much more including a social space with sofas and a pool table.



In addition to village run clubs and trips we also run other activities like the Café Nero project in Horsham where we take over Café Nero from 6:00pm till 8:30pm on Friday evenings during the winter months, offering a buy one get one free for all young people in school years 8 till sixth-form. The hot chocolates are very popular!

HYPER (Horsham Young Peoples Empowered Representatives) is Horsham's Youth Council. This is a group for young people who are passionate about having their voices heard and counted on when it comes to local, district and national issues. They work alongside other organisations discussing and participating in the decision-making processes of issues and concerns facing young people these days.

To keep up to date on all trips, activities and youth club information, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CommunityYW](http://www.facebook.com/CommunityYW)

## Schools Work

For the last three years, Community Youth Work has been visiting Tanbridge House, Forest Boys and Millais Schools alongside other youth workers from the area. Activities have included running an Alcohol Awareness Project (Mocktail Apprentice) and being part of the Eliv:8 team, a course on raising aspirations, self-esteem and challenging behaviour.



# MONEY MATTERS

## Annual Accounts

The Parish Council's annual accounts to 31 March 2016 have now been signed off by PKF Littlejohn, our external auditors, and are available on our website [www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk) under "Accounts".

## Precept Requirements 2017-2018

The precept is the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council from Horsham District Council. For 2017-18, there will be a small increase of 98p or 1.7% 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.

## Small Grants for Community Groups

**DID YOU KNOW** that the Parish Council has a small fund available for helping local groups and community organisations. Some who have benefited in the past are the Village Hall Trustees, Slinfold Football Club and the Slinfold Concert Band and each year we grant money to the PCC and British Legion towards the upkeep of the church grounds and war memorial.

Do you have a project that you would like some financial support with? It is easy to apply, check out our Grant Awarding policy on the website (details on the back page).

## Volunteer!

Successful community youth work can only happen when we have a fantastic group of volunteers on board. We currently have a great team of volunteers that support our youth clubs, socials and other activities but we are always looking for more help and support. From as little a commitment as one evening a term or just to help on a trip or two, you can help continue the great work that is already going on with our amazing young people.

Have a great Christmas and if you would like to find out more, contact me:



**Dan Fairchild**  
07702 492841  
[dan.fairchild@horsham-matters.org.uk](mailto:dan.fairchild@horsham-matters.org.uk)

# 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

Tel: 01403 785864

Mobile: 07733 359479

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

**Neighbourhood Plan Administrator:**

**Jane Bromley**

Email: [info@slinfoldnplan.org](mailto:info@slinfoldnplan.org)

**Environment Officer:**

Dennis Elmes is out and about in the village on a regular basis. If you are concerned about a particular area that needs attention please call him on 07510 540730 or contact the Clerk.

**Chairman:**

**Mr Mark Wellesley-Wood**

Tel: 01403 790120,

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

## 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

Please be aware that problems around the village can 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.

**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.love.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.love.westsussex.gov.uk)

**West Sussex County Council Highways:**

01243 642105

### Refuse and recycling over the Christmas and New Year period

Additional blue topped bin recycling collections will be scheduled to deal with festive packaging. For full information, householders are encouraged to use the personalised collection calendar on the Horsham District Council website at [www.horsham.gov.uk/bins/bin\\_calendars](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/bins/bin_calendars)

## Parish Councillors

**Gordon Constantine**

01403 791138

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**Camilla Gibson**

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**Edward Skeates**

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**Gael Stenton-Chandler**

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**Mark Wellesley-Wood**

01403 790120

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

**Vacancies: One**

## 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

**Liz Kitchen**

[liz.kitchen@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:liz.kitchen@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. 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.

### Forthcoming meetings 2017

Thursday 26th January	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 9th February	Highways, Recreation & The Environment	6:30pm
Thursday 23rd February	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 16th March	Finance	8:00pm
Thursday 30th March	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 20th April	Finance	8:00pm
Friday 21st April	Annual Parish Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday 27th April	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 11th May	Highways, Recreation & The Environment	6:30pm
Thursday 25th May	Annual Council Meeting	7.30pm
Thursday 29th July	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 27th July	Parish Council	7:30pm