



# Slinfold Parish Council

P.O. Box 360, Slinfold, West Sussex RH13 5GW

Tel:01403 266768 Email:[clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

**Mrs Janet Valentine  
Chairman of the Parish Council**

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### **Slinfold Parish Council Contact Details:**

Slinfold Parish Council  
P.O. Box 360  
Slinfold  
West Sussex  
RH13 5GW

Telephone:  
Email:  
Website:

01403 266768  
[clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk](http://www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

## **The Council**

**Chairman:** Mrs Janet Valentine

**Vice Chairman:** Mr Alan Mawer

Mr Christopher Burke	1 Mitchell Gardens, Slinfold RH13 0TY	01403 791866
Mrs Margaret Dunkerton	Nowhurst, Nowhurst Lane, Broadbridge Heath RH12 3PJ	01403 240980
Mrs Emma Grundy	37 Six Acres, Slinfold RH13 0TH	01403 791621
Mrs Daphne Harding	5 Streetfield Road, Slinfold RH13 0SE	01403 790738
Mrs Rosemary Hillyard	Little Hammers, The Street, Slinfold RH13 0RR	01403 791027
Mr Alan Mawer	York Cottage, Lyons Road, Slinfold RH13 0RY	01403 790917
Mr Adrian Skeates	2 Churchyard Cottages, Clapgate Lane, Slinfold RH13 0QU	07743 505392
Mr Erik Sorensen	8 Six Acres, Slinfold RH13 0TH	01403 790829
Mrs Gael Stenton- Chandler	Eagle Cottage, Stane Street, Slinfold RH13 0QX	01403 790149
Mrs Janet Valentine	Birch House, 50 Six Acres, Slinfold RH13 0TH	01403 790279
Mr David White	Chimney Corner, Park Street, Slinfold RH13 0QU	01403 790435

## **Council Staff**

**Parish Clerk:** Ms Beverley Turner

**Environmental  
Cleansing  
Operative:**

Mr Alan Baker

## Council Structure

**Committee and Advisory Group Membership and Representatives on Outside Bodies as agreed at the Parish Council Meeting on 28 September 2006.**

### Committees

**1. Finance and General Purposes Committee (including Miscellaneous Properties, Administration):**

R. Hillyard (Chairman), C. Burke, M. Dunkerton, A. Mawer, E. Sorensen.

**2. Recreation & Environment (including Litter, Street Lighting, and Burials):**

E. Grundy (Chairman), D. Harding, E. Sorensen, G. Stenton-Chandler, D. White.

**3. Youth Issues:**

J. Valentine (Chairman), M. Dalrymple, E. Grundy + lay members (Steve Grundy, Karol Jackson)

**4. Highways, Byways and Transport:**

A. Mawer (Chairman), C. Burke, M. Dunkerton, R. Hillyard, A. Skeates.

### Advisory Groups

**5. Planning and Development:**

A. Mawer (Chairman), C. Burke, M. Dunkerton, E. Grundy, A. Skeates.

**6. Industrial Liaison Group:**

R. Hillyard (Chairman), A. Skeates.

**7. Parish Action Plan:**

R. Hillyard, J. Valentine.

**8. Legal Issues & Public Information:**

R. Hillyard, A. Mawer, J. Valentine.

### **Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Child Memorial Village Hall – One Trustee

J. Valentine/D. Harding.

Parish Cottages – Two Trustees

R. Hillyard, L. Watson

Slinfold Charities – One Trustee

R. Hillyard

Slinfold School Governors – One Governor

J. Valentine (from October 2002)

Slinfold Sports Association – Two Cllrs

D. Harding

Horsham Association of Local Councils

J. Valentine

Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM

J. Valentine

Slinfold Village Shop Association – One Cllr

M. Dunkerton

Police Consultative Committee

A. Skeates

CARES

E. Sorensen, D. White

North Horsham CLC

Vacancy

## 1. Chairman's Overview and Introduction

The Parish Council started the Council year with one vacancy following the resignation of Mrs Kathleen Peacock. Mr Trevor Dayneswood resigned from the Parish Council in July 2006. The Council filled both vacancies by co-option at the Parish Council meeting on 31 August 2006. Mrs Gael Stenton-Chandler and Mr David White joined the Council. The Council members have remained constant since 31 August 2006.

The Council is looking to fill all eleven seats at the forthcoming Parish Council elections on 03 May 2007. This is a different story to May 2003 when the Council was only able to fill seven of the eleven seats. This was unfortunate, as this has prevented the Council from applying for 'Quality Status' even though our Clerk was one of the first ten Parish Clerks in the country to achieve the necessary Clerk's qualification to apply for quality status.

In October Tom Crowley Chief Executive and Cllr. Liz Kitchen of Horsham District Council attended our meeting as part of their tour of the Horsham district.

## 2. Reports from Committees:

### i. Finance

The Parish Council complies with the statutory requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 in the management of its accounts and financial affairs. The appointed external auditor for the Council is Mazars of Southampton; the independent internal auditor is Peter J Consultants of Lindfield. The Parish Clerk is the Responsible Financial Officer and reports regularly to the Finance Committee.

Total expenditure was £52,718 on staff costs, hall hire, grass cutting, insurance, litter collection, property repairs, playground upkeep, footway lighting – supply and new equipment, loan for the Village Hall modernisation work and planning consultancy for the Local Development Framework.

Total income was £68,854 from precept of £46,330, reclaiming VAT, donations towards grass cutting and Environmental Cleansing Grant from HDC.

Total cash holdings and investments at 31 March 2007 is £71,257. The precept for 2007/08 has been set at £47,500. This equates to £52.22 per property at band D equivalent, an increase of 2.4% on 2006/07 which was £50.97.

### ii. Highways

- **A29/A281** – Speed surveys were undertaken on these routes at the request of the Parish Council, but WSCC said that neither route changed priority for speed management works as a result of the surveys.
- **Flint Group direction signs** – The Flint Group paid for new lorry direction signs to deter large vehicles entering the village.
- **Flooding and Re-instatement works to Lowfield Green and West Way** – The Parish Council pressed for re-instatement works to Lowfield Green and the verges in West Way following phase 1 of the drainage improvements works to ease the flooding experienced in recent years in the village. Phase 2 drainage improvements further up Hayes Lane are currently ongoing.

- **School car parking** – Parking in the Street is still an ongoing concern to the Parish Council. Costs of extension of the car park are a prohibitive factor.
- **Speed Commitment Campaign posters** – Thank you to Slinfold CE Primary School for the new Speed Commitment Campaign posters.
- **Horses fouling pavements** – The Parish Council contacted the British Horse Society for assistance to ask equestrians not to ride their horses on the pavement to reduce fouling.
- **Six Acres imprint** – The Parish Council has requested that the imprint surface is not replaced when the road is eventually re-surfaced.
- **Hedgerows** – The Parish Council wrote to several land owners this year to ask them to trim their hedges back for road safety reasons.
- **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** – The Council submitted comments to this plan.
- **Downs Link** – Special thanks to Christopher Burke who has invested a lot of time and hard work to pursue a Definitive Map Modification Order for the ‘missing link’ to make a bridleway along a section of the Downs Link commencing at Baystone Bridge and the existing bridleway 3569 southeast along the Downs Link turning northeast to the end point at Christ’s Hospital Railway Station.
- **Viewpoint** – The Parish Council is looking at improving the viewpoint on the Downs Link with WSCC, the Flint Group and the SI Group.
- **Bus Shelter** – The Parish Council has had the crack re-pointed in the bus shelter and noticeboards and seat re-painted this year.

There are a number of minor outstanding items for WSCC Highways to currently deal with. Our Clerk is monitoring progress of these repairs.

### iii. Recreation

- **King George’s Field** – The new play equipment is being well used, and young people are actively reporting any faults or concerns to our Parish Clerk. CARES – the Community Association for Recreation and the Environment in Slinfold have been working on phase 2 improvements to the King George’s Field and held a consultation event in January on a proposed Multi Use Games Area or ball court. The consultation found in favour of a ball court, so CARES are investigating costs and grant funding. The Council will then make the final decision whether to proceed.
- **Mitchell Gardens Gates to the King George’s Field** – There is an ongoing problem of criminal damage caused by persons climbing over these gates as a short cut. Repairing the damage is costing the Parish Council, and ultimately you the Council Tax payer money. We are working with Sussex Police and HDC to find a solution.
- **Six Acres Open Space and Entrance Area** – The Parish Council is awaiting transfer of the land along with a commuted sum for maintenance from George Wimpey.
- **Cherry Tree Sports Field** – The Parish Council has asked the Flint Group to install a height restriction barrier across the mouth of Cherry Tree sports field to prevent unauthorised vehicular access.
- **Safety Inspections** – The Litter Warden continues to make a weekly inspection of the King George’s Field and Six Acres toddler play area. HDC carry out monthly inspections of these areas, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents inspect these areas annually.

- **Footway Lighting** - Our Recreation Committee is pleased to announce that the final phase of upgrades to the footway lighting in the parish have been ordered and should be installed this summer. All obsolete lanterns have now been replaced. The Parish Council will now be responsible the electricity supply and maintenance of footway lights in Park Street, The Street, Clapgate Lane, Lyons Road and Hayes Lane. All the rest will be the responsibility of WSCC.
- **Litter** – Horsham District Council devolves environmental cleansing to the Parish Council with an annual grant for the provision of the service. Our Litter Warden continues to provide an excellent service to the parish, not just in collecting litter but also being vigilant reporting other issues to the Clerk too, such as blocked ditches. The dog litter bins continue to be well used on the Downs Link. The Parish Council would like to install a dog litter bin to the north of the village but is currently unable to find a suitable site that is not close to properties and that allows for easy access for servicing.
- **Burials** – The Parish Council has a contract with the Parochial Church Council until 01 April 2008 to ensure that the graveyard is open for burials.
- **War Memorial** – The Parish Council donates £50 per annum to the Royal British Legion – Slinfold branch for the planting around the War Memorial.

#### iv. Youth Issues

- We have been so lucky to have Karol Jackson running our Youth Club in Slinfold ably assisted by volunteers. Karol has stood down from the Youth Club due to personal commitments, but we are hopeful that we have found a replacement leader and hope to re-start the Youth Club soon.

### 3. Reports from Advisory Groups:

#### i. Planning

- **Our Planning Advisory Group** continues to make site visits (when invited) and submit responses to planning applications – there have been 74 new applications this year. The Slinfold Parish Design Statement was adopted as Interim Policy by Horsham District Council this year and is used as a material consideration when the Council submits responses to planning applications.
- **Local Development Framework** – It is fair to say that much of this Council's efforts this year have been concentrated on the public examination into the Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework and proposal for the allocation of 2,000 houses on land west of Horsham at Broadbridge Heath. As the neighbouring parish, this Council fought hard to reduce the number of houses allocated at this site, even engaging the services of a Planning Consultant. Unfortunately this Council was unable to reduce the number of the houses, but will continue to take a full and active role in the consultation on the master planning of this area in a bid to reduce any detrimental affects this development might have on our community in terms of traffic congestion and drain on local infrastructure.

**ii. Industrial Liaison Group** – The Council continues to meet twice a year with the Flint Group and SI Group to discuss issues around the sites, and we thank both companies for their continued support and assistance.

**iii. Parish Plan** – Most actions in our Parish Plan, published 2003, have been tackled. The Parish Plan will be reviewed in 2008, and we are fortunate that our Clerk is also the Parish Liaison Officer at Horsham District Council and will be able to guide us through the process.

**iv. Legal Issues** – It has not been necessary for our Legal Issues Group to meet recently, however they will be called upon to update the Council's Code of Conduct later this year when the Standards Board have completed their review of the code.

#### **4. Consultations 2006/7**

- i. The Parish Council assisted CARES with the consultation on the proposed phase 2 improvements for a ball court for the King George's Field earlier this year.
- ii. The Parish Council worked with Neighbourhood Watch and Sussex Police to hold a well attended Street Briefing in the Village Hall in March.
- iii. There continues to be a public session at every Parish Council and Committee meeting for members of the public to attend and address the Council or Committee directly. Our Clerk is always happy to read out written or emailed correspondence for those who are unable to get to these public sessions but would like their views heard.

#### **5. Acknowledgements**

I would now like to express the thanks of all the Parish Council to:

- Alan Baker, our Litter Warden, who does such an excellent job around the village.
- John Willcox, who with CARES and the Recreation Committee of the Parish Council, have made a great improvement to the King George's Field and are working towards phase 2 improvements.
- Our District Councillors Jean Burnham and Michael Dalrymple, who attend our monthly meetings whenever their other duties permit and our best wishes to Jean on her retirement from Council work.
- Mick Hodgson, our County Councillor. It is invaluable for us to have both District and County input.
- And lastly to our Clerk, Beverley Turner, who is outstanding in the conscientious way she performs her duties and keeps us on the straight and narrow!

I should like to express my special thanks to all the Parish Councillors who serve on Slinfold Parish Council. Much of their work, such as committees, goes unseen but it enables us to work as an efficient Parish Council.

This is my last Annual Report and I should like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of Slinfold Parish Council. I have learnt a great deal and have enjoyed my three years as Chairman. I feel it is now time for someone new to take the Chair and to move the Council forward.

Janet Valentine  
**Chairman**