



News

Slinfold Parish Council

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Left: Slinfold Reserves double winners!

News from your Parish Council

Welcome to the summer issue of Parish Council News for 2019. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the Parish (around 850) 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 positive and complimentary feedback on our previous editions. Don't forget, if you have something that you would like to see in the next edition, which will come out in December 2019, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back page).

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Friday 5th April, Slinfold Village Hall



Neil Beer
Parish Council
Chair

The Annual Parish Meeting, hosted by the Chairman of the Council, Neil Beer on 5th April was a great success, with over 50 people attending. The audience heard about highlights of the year and future plans

from a number of community groups, including the Scouts, the Football, Cricket and Tennis Clubs, Slinfold Village Hall, Slinfold Village Stores, Slinfold PTA and Slinfold Youth Club. There were questions and discussion on some recent planning applications, including the Cordek chimney, and on the present

situation with the Scout Hut (reported elsewhere in this magazine).

The Chairman of the Parish Council presented a summary of the Council's work over the past year. Highlights included the expansion of youth and older person activities in the village, Christmas celebrations, the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan, Community Speedwatch, a Renewable Energy feasibility study, drainage work and the community space at Cherry Tree.

You can read Neil's full report at www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk



Community Youth Club workers

Slinfold Village walk & map



With new signs now in place around the village to clearly mark our much-loved walkabout; the Parish Council is now working with designers to produce a Village Map that can be made available through various outlets and displayed around the village, to promote our beautiful village, not only as a place for residents to enjoy, but for others to visit. Please follow the Village Walk signs to explore a lovely circular walk around the village.

Slinfold's Village Diary & organisations



Don't forget that Slinfold now has its very own on-line Village Diary which can be viewed at www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk so if you

are planning an event please check the Village Diary first, it may save you double booking!

Also on the Parish Council website is a list of village organisations, which will be particularly helpful to our new residents. If you would like your organisation listed please email: clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk



Like us on Facebook – to join the public group, which already has nearly 800 members, just do a Google or Facebook search for 'Slinfold Parish Facebook page' and then ask to join. Here you will be able to see what's happening in Slinfold, share events and stories, and be an active part of the wonderful community that is Slinfold.

Councillor vacancies

by Councillor Nic Lewis



Nic Lewis

I feel like we are always asking for people to join the Parish Council. Every month we put out a new request but it rarely has any effect. I would like to take this

opportunity to explain how much we need people to join.

The Parish Council has room for 11 Councillors. In the three years I have served on the Council, we have had 11 Councillors for about a month. People come and go all the time, but recently we have struggled to find people to join. Therefore the Committees within the Council (Planning, Highways and

Recreation, Finance and Shop) have at least 2 Councillors serving on most Committees, as well as other duties in the Parish and the Council. Our Parish Councillors also run the Youth Club, Sunday's Cool, Speedwatch, to name a few. I myself double up as Chair of the Finance Committee and Treasurer of the School PTA (FOSSA), as well as holding down a full-time job and editing the Village Magazine.

We don't want accolades or any recognition; we are happy helping keep Slinfold an amazing community to live in, but we are stretched and we are also in danger of not having enough people at each meeting. We need to reach a minimum number of attendees for meetings (known as quorum) to make our meetings legal – if one or

two people cannot attend it means we cannot always hold the meetings.

Serving on the Parish Council does not mean you have to be an expert (I am not in a financial profession) and you do not have to attend every meeting (I have commitments to my young son, like any other parent). You just need some enthusiasm, an opinion to bring to the discussion and a desire to keep Slinfold the lovely place it is.

Please consider joining the Parish Council, or volunteering for another village organisation. You will make some amazing friends for life, you will have the chance to make a difference for your local community and you will feel all warm inside!

Thank you for reading
Nic

Senior opportunities in Slinfold

by Councillor Hilary Sherwin-Smith



Hilary Sherwin-Smith

We have many single elderly in the village and those who don't attend the various organised activities can become quite isolated. This is a great shame as Slinfold is an

extremely friendly place to live in and there is much company to be found at our various events:

1. Although we have lost our daily Post Office service, there is now an

outreach service one afternoon a week on a Tuesday; and we have arranged for the pub to serve tea and cake on that afternoon too, which also helps the pub with footfall.

2. The Red Lyon now provides a two course lunch for Seniors once a month on the fourth Thursday of every month.
3. St Peter's Assistant Priest hosts a monthly morning meeting for Seniors in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of every month, which starts with half an hour of chat over coffee and cake, followed either by a speaker, or a craft session.
4. Age UK have helped set up a "Reading Friends" Group which meets once a month in the Scout Hut on the last Wednesday of each month. It provides an opportunity to read, share stories, meet new friends and have fun over coffee and biscuits (of course!).
5. The Parish Council has hosted a Christmas lunch for seniors for the last two years.



6. Since 1981, the village has run a Help Scheme, to drive people without transport to doctors, dentists, hospitals, vets etc. Many elderly residents benefit from this, as even if they once had a car, they need help when they stop driving. To fund the expenses of the volunteer drivers (most only claim for the long journeys) we have a monthly afternoon tea in the Village Hall, where we have books, home-made jams, chutneys, cakes, plants and bric-a-brac for sale, and a raffle. This afternoon provides another chance to meet people and if needed, we can arrange a lift to and from the village hall.

If you would like to find out more about any of these, please call Hilary on 01403 790403.



TRANSPORT MATTERS

Slinfold Community Speedwatch



The group has run 36 hour long sessions since the start of the year and logged 165 drivers exceeding the speed limit. The number of speeding vehicles has slowly continued to fall with a zero count being recorded for the first time on the 17th May between 08:00 and 09:00 along Lyons Road. The number of speeding vehicles along Lyons Road has fallen but the average speed of those logged over the limit has increased. The fastest recorded speeds on Lyons Road in the first half of the year have been 81 and 71 mph.

At Park Street we have also seen the number of speeding vehicles reduce but there is still work to do. The sessions now average around six vehicles over the limit.

Unfortunately, the new observation sites requested by the group around the village are still awaiting risk assessment by the police. Our request for police enforcement is also outstanding. Both of these are being chased at a senior level.

When the group is not active it is evident that we still have a speeding problem.

The Speedwatch group now only has five active members meaning our ability to make a difference is limited. Any additional help would be very much appreciated. Please do think about volunteering. We are making a difference but need more help.

A big thank you to the volunteers for their help in making the roads around the village safer.

slinfoldspeedwatch@gmail.com



Gatwick consultation on design principles for airspace change

Gatwick Airport issued a consultation on its Design Principles for the modernisation of Airspace. Even though this wasn't a public consultation the Parish Council has responded and is keen to be engaged at an early stage on these key changes to airspace redesign. Full details of the consultation are contained here:

<https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/umbraco/Surface/PublicSurface/DownloadDocument/587>

and follow up document:

<https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/umbraco/Surface/PublicSurface/DownloadDocument/650>

We continue to lobby with a view to avoiding overflight of the village and as part of this a noise monitor is being installed in the village by Gatwick.

Leave the car at home and cycle to Cherry Tree

The Parish Council invites residents of the village to cycle rather than drive to the sports and community facilities at Cherry Tree, Hayes Lane. We have recently installed a new cycle shelter so you can chain your bike for safety and it will be under cover so it won't get wet when the heavens open.

This shelter has been partly funded by legacies from Eileen Blunden, who was

Update on community highways scheme for traffic calming

At the end of May 2018, the Parish Council submitted an application to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for a community highways scheme for the centre of the village. It was hoped that a scheme could be introduced which would slow traffic down and improve safety. On 18th October 2018, Chris Stark, Area Highways Manager, Horsham District, at WSCC advised that we had not been successful with our application.

Chris Stark suggested that the best way forward was for him to meet with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss needs in more detail, so that if we do wish to make a further submission, we have a better chance of progressing it to the next stage. That meeting took place at the end of February and the outcome was not particularly positive. WSCC has little or no budget for the type of scheme we may like to see in Slinfold and there are certain criteria which we must meet, some of which will be difficult for a village of our size to achieve. We shall be looking at possible options in line with the current criteria and will keep you informed of progress.

always to be seen cycling around the village and Vivian Lauder who left a sum of money for the benefit of the residents of Slinfold.

Thank you to Eileen and Vivian for contributing towards this community asset.





Slinfold Football Club celebrate much success this season

After a 48 year wait, Slinfold Reserves have won Division 5 and after an even longer 83 year wait have won the Rossiter Trophies Division 5 Charity Cup.

It's the Reserve Teams first promotion since 1971 and with the Division 5 Cup already in the bag, they finished the season as double winners. A fantastic achievement for all involved and hopefully a sign of things to come.

Back to back promotions for the club highlights the hard work that goes on in the background from the amazing Committee and Board members. Without the dedication of Debbie, Pete, Tom, Rob, Dan, George, Tim, Simon and Sarah, the club wouldn't exist.

We are grateful also for the support of our main sponsors, ASAP Group, Horsham Barbers and Firebird Brewery, and our player sponsors, P.T. Decorating, Apex Aero Ltd, Alfresco Art, BrookVex, Dragon Alfa Cement, Melanie Paul Goldsmiths and C.P.F Plumbing and Heating, without whom we would not be able to keep the club running.

Slinfold F.C. continue to grow; next season we are looking to start our first women's team, this will only be a success if we receive the same support and can get players on board.

The final thank you goes to Slinfold Parish Council and Mary, for their hard work to get us back to Cherry Tree for this season and their ongoing support for improvement of the facilities. We look forward to the relationship continuing to flourish!

Simon Stocker, Slinfold FC

'Down on the farm' for Slinfold School's Summer Fair



Slinfold CE Primary and Pre-School had a fabulous time for their Summer Fair, held on Sunday 19th May 2019. Along with the usual BBQ and bar refreshments, we enjoyed the 'Farm' theme with themed magic and balloon modelling, face painting and many other of our usual attractions including a live Band, 'Doomsville'! We also welcomed some physical challenges from our after school sporting clubs and our local Scout group! We had a fabulous raffle, with great prizes generously donated by local companies, as well as many other chances to win a prize!

Thank you to everyone who supports our lovely school!

Slinfold School PTA

Slinfold Scouts and The Cobblers

The Scout Hut is in quite a sorry state, and the Parish Council has been trying to find solutions for this. Horsham District Council, which is the Scout's landlord, has been reluctant to extend the lease, but have promised that the Scouts "will not be homeless".

Some of the developers bringing forward sites under the Neighbourhood Plan had offered to include a new Scout hut in their plans, but so far, none of these have come through in their applications. Just recently, the Parish Council has been approached by Saxon Weald, who will be re-developing The Cobblers, and who want to discuss options for rebuilding the Scout Hut. It is too early to be sure of the outcome, but the Council is hopeful that we may be able to secure improved accommodation for The Scouts this year.



Clerk's Corner

How lovely to see the sun shining once again; the birds are waking us up at 4am and the days just get longer and longer. My time of year!

It has been a busy period for me since Christmas, particularly April and May when we had local elections, annual accounts to agree and our Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Over the winter I worked on budget requirements, severe weather plans, a health and safety audit of all trees on Parish Council land as well as working closely with our Environment Officers and Councillor Chris Leyland to try to

find ways to improve the drainage system in Hayes Lane, to name but a few.

I moved into the new Parish Office, in the Football Pavilion at Cherry Tree, towards the end of last year and I shall spend a couple of hours there each week to meet with residents and contractors. At the moment I am asking that residents call me if they would like to meet with me at the office to discuss a particular issue, that way I can make an appointment to suit. So please, if you have a particular issue that you would like to discuss face to face, call me on 01403 785864. Tuesday to Thursdays are my usual working days but I am always happy to accommodate a meeting outside of these days if I can.

As always I'd like to thank Tim and Jon, our Environment Officers, for all their hard work. I am sure you will agree that they really do keep our village looking spick and span.

Up and coming challenges – this

summer we are looking to install another couple of bins/dog bins and have another two of our lovely benches on order.

We are hoping to conclude the final landscaping required at Cherry Tree as well as making a grant application to improve drainage in the village. Before we know it Christmas will be here again!

Elsewhere in this magazine, Cllr. Lewis has shared her thoughts on becoming a Parish Councillor. We currently have eight elected Councillors. The Parish Council really does a great job and it would be lovely to see three new Councillors join us this year. One thing that all of our councillors have in common is that they love the parish in which they live. Would you like to protect and enhance what we already have? Then please apply; it could be a fabulous way to help make a difference.

*Have a great summer
your Clerk Mary*

COUNCIL MATTERS

Village rainwater drainage and flooding

The Parish Council is continuing to actively pursue options with a view to improving the ongoing drainage issues on Hayes Lane. Those options include but are not limited to:

- Working with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways;
- Seeking grants from Operation Watershed;
- Liaison with developers and landowners;
- An ongoing dialogue with Horsham District Council;
- Regular and proactive maintenance of the drainage system.

After the flooding on the 8th February 2019 we have undertaken a full review of the Hayes Lane system and the connecting watercourses as they flow down to the River Arun. We have also looked at the Six Acres system and the

connecting watercourse so we now have a full picture of how the two key pieces of infrastructure are working and areas requiring attention. This is particularly important given the plans for development in the area and we are now well placed to work with developers on drainage.

Going forward we are working on the following assumptions:

1. That funding for a new Hayes Lane system will not be available into the foreseeable future;
2. That the trash screens will continue to block due to upstream debris that we have no control over. This causes overspill onto the roads;
3. That there is some capacity in the Hayes Lane outfall stream.

With these assumptions in mind we have met with the WSCC drainage

engineer and will be providing details of pipe blockages and sump clearance requirements for WSCC to resolve.

We will also be applying for a grant from Operation Watershed. If the application is successful, this will be used to either improve the Hayes Lane outfall design or for the installation of a storm drain around the Brick Lane area of Hayes Lane, pending a feasibility study.

Realistically, it is going to take some time to resolve the Hayes Lane issues, if we ever fully can, so in the short to medium term, the Parish Council is looking for volunteers from the Hayes Lane area to once again form the Flood Action Group. If you are a resident of Hayes Lane and would like to join the Flood Action group, please contact:

HLFloodAction@Gmail.com or call the Clerk on 01403 785864

We would like to hear your ideas for Community Improvement Projects

Each year, the Parish Council sets money aside for "improvement" projects around the parish. Examples in the past have included: noticeboards, village signs, benches, refuse bins and grit bins, refurbishment of the phone boxes (now a library and an information centre), a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in the King George V playing field and a defibrillator at The Cobblers. The Council would like to hear your ideas about what more could be done around the parish (regular maintenance is already planned and funded, so you don't need to include those sorts of things).

This year, we are looking to plant more trees and hang bat boxes so if you would like to help with this project or have other ideas for improving our community please email the Clerk on clerk@slingfold-pc.gov.uk or call her on 01403 785864 or call to make an appointment to meet at the Football Club. We look forward to hearing from you!



Overhanging vegetation – take a quick look now

When the bird nesting season comes to an end, 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. Please also spare a thought for drivers whose vehicles are being scratched by overgrown hedgerow that encroaches upon the highway.

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 or by a driver whose vehicle has been damaged.

MONEY MATTERS

Annual Accounts

The Parish Council's annual accounts to 31 March 2019 have now been submitted to Moore Stephens, the external auditors, and are available on our website www.slingfold-pc.gov.uk under "Accounts".



Mark Wellesley-Wood Parish Council Chairman 2013-18



On Wednesday 15th May 2019 we said goodbye to Mark, Councillor and Chairman of Slingfold Parish Council from 2013 to 2018.

Our thoughts are with Mark's family following his sad passing. In memory of Mark, the Parish Council has approved a charitable donation to MIND, a mental health charity.

Your Parish Council

For further information visit the Parish Council website 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

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

Elected May 2019 for a 4 year period

Neil Beer

n.beer@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Nic Lewis

n.lewis@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Christopher Leyland

c.leyland@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Adrian Roberts

a.roberts@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Hilary Sherwin-Smith

h.sherwin-smith@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

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 for more information 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 direct 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). 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. 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 2019

Date	Meeting	Starting at
Thursday 27 June	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 25 July	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 26 September	Parish Council	7:30pm
Wednesday 23 October	Shop & Post Office	6:15pm
Wednesday 23 October	Finance	7:00pm
Thursday 31 October	Parish Council	7:30pm
Wednesday 13 November	Finance	7:00pm
Thursday 28 November	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 19 December	Parish Council	7:00pm

Defibrillator

Just a reminder to residents that there is a village defibrillator if required situated outside The Cobblers, bottom of Hayes Lane but please call 999 first.



Renewable Energies

The feasibility study commissioned by the Parish Council last year indicated that it would probably be worthwhile to install solar panels on the Village Shop. The Council is proceeding to explore this – arranging for detailed surveys and quotes from potential suppliers.



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



Horsham District Council