

Welcome to the winter issue of Parish Council News for 2021. 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 Parish Council activity and forthcoming meetings. If you have something that you would like to see in the next edition, which will come out in the summer, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back page).

Slinfold Parish Council wishes all its residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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News from

Slinfold Parish Council

Turn to page 2 for all the Christmas event information!



Christmas in Slinfold

As some sensible and advisory guidance is still to be considered given the Covid-19 pandemic, the Parish Council thought long and hard about how it might be involved in the festive season celebrations this year. Hopefully we have not disappointed!



Send a Slinfold Christmas Card

Available to purchase at various outlets and at seasonal events during December.



Seniors Christmas Tea & The Greatest Showman

On Wednesday 1st December, we invited over 40 of our seniors to join us for an afternoon of Christmas cheer. Our guests enjoyed a light snack as well as mince pies and Christmas pud. The very popular movie *The Greatest Showman* was screened in its full glory using the new fabulous Village Hall cinema facilities. For those unable to attend in person this meal was delivered by Santa's elves to their door.

The Village Christmas Tree

was lit on Friday 10th December. The Parish Council would like to thank the owners of the Old Post Office for allowing us to put the tree on their lawn. The tree this year is bigger and brighter! To follow we enjoyed carols around the Christmas tree with music from the Slinfold Concert Band together with

mulled wine and delicious mince pies. Santa flew in too with his sack full of goodies for the children.

Sparkling Slinfold Competition (see page 1)

Residents have been encouraged to spread a little cheer by lighting up their homes for Christmas. There are some fabulous prizes to be won e.g. best dressed house, best dressed window, most inventive display etc. Judging takes place between 15th and 22nd December, prizes delivered soon after.

Children's Christmas Trail (see page 1)

begins 19th December – Santa has been a Secret Santa this year and delivered a gift for all children who complete the trail! 'Santa Stopped Here' will be at the village shop.



Improving access to our local countryside

One of the great things about living in Slinfold is the fantastic countryside we have all around us. We are also fortunate to have a fabulous network of footpaths and bridleways which allow us to stroll through woods full of bluebells in spring and through beautiful fields and meadows. But these rights of way do not maintain themselves and over time paths become overgrown or impassable and gates and stiles fall into disrepair. Whilst the upkeep of all our public rights of way (PROW) is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) there is much that both the Parish Council and members of the parish can do to help.

Maintenance and inspections are carried out by WSCC on a rotational basis but if you spot a problem then it is helpful to get it reported so more swift action can be taken. There are several ways you can do this:

- The simplest way of doing this is to download the 'Love West Sussex' application on to a smartphone (see picture on back page). Once you have registered you can use the app to send in reports of problems that you encounter when you are out and about.
- If you don't have a smartphone then you can also do this online at the WSCC website – the link is love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home and you can also see what other reports have been submitted in the area.

- The other way to report something is to email me d.estyn-jones@slinfold-pc.gov.uk or the Clerk at clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk and we can take action.

Please just be aware that things don't always move fast, and it may take a while for things to get actioned, but if we don't make WSCC aware then we just have to rely on the problem being spotted on a routine inspection. I do know that reports I've submitted have led to action being taken to mend some unsafe stiles on footpaths to the west of the A29.

We've also had a number of conversations in recent months with parishioners who have limited mobility. Small steps or bumps which might not present a challenge to most people can be far more significant for those living with disability. We would therefore like to set up a special group for looking at disability access in the parish. The aim would be to identify problem areas within the parish and look to accelerate corrective action being taken. If you would like to be part of this group then please email me at d.estyn-jones@slinfold-pc.gov.uk and feel free to pass these details on to anyone else you think might like to be involved. We will look to set up the group in the New Year.

David

Councillor David Estyn-Jones



Slinfold Village Day – Sunday 12th September – such a great success

Slinfold Parish Council thanks everyone who made the ‘Village Day’ such a fun-filled and fabulous day out for all.

The Cream Teas by the WI in the Village Hall were so tasty, the Slinfold Concert Band, the Accordion Band and singers in the pub garden were just lovely to listen to, the Children’s Area was a huge hit with face-painting, games and candy floss, the Stalls, Tombola’s, Tattoos, Displays, Bunting and Flags in The Street made everybody smile whilst a few pounds were spent to support local causes and charities.

The Red Lyon and Slinfold Village Stores kept our guests and visitors fed and watered with drinks, food and ice creams, the ‘History Display’ in the Church was informative and most interesting, the Tank standing guard over the event was awesome, and we were treated to a two-times fly around by a Military Helicopter during the afternoon.

There is such a lot involved in organising an event such as this, and this would not have been possible without our organisers, contributors, fetchers and carriers, those who dressed The Street, set up and closed down the ‘day’ and kept The Street closed for the duration of the event.

The ‘Fun Dog Show’ was practically a sell out with over 200 entries and after the dog show the crowd gathered to watch participants of all ages in the Tug of War (or wars) organised by the Scouts. To close the show the church bells rang at 6:00pm.

So, to everyone who joined us, organised, volunteered, participated in the event and you know who you are! a MASSIVE THANK YOU from Slinfold Parish Council; we hope that everyone had a great day out.



STOP PRESS

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Village Day 2022

The UK will celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s 70th anniversary as monarch with a blockbuster weekend of celebrations. The May Bank Holiday Weekend will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone. This historic event will reflect on Her Majesty’s reign, and her impact on the UK and the world since 1952. The Parish Council hopes to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June 2022 so please note this date in your diary.

“Whilst the upkeep of all our public rights of way (PROW) is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) there is much that both the Parish Council and members of the parish can do to help.”



YOUR PARISH YOUR COMMUNITY



New Look Entrances to the Village

In our summer newsletter we reported that the three entrances to the village were to have a facelift and we are

delighted to advise that the work is now complete with new signs, gateways and planting.

Huge thanks go to ex Slinfold resident and garden designer Harrie Carnochan, MCIHort (pictured above) for designing and installing the new flower beds which you will have noticed at the entrances to the village, at both Lyons Road and Park Street. Harrie is RHS qualified and has studied at the prestigious KLC school of garden design. In addition Harrie works as part of the planting team at the Hampton Court and Chelsea flower shows. Thanks again Harrie!
www.harriecarnochandesign.co.uk





Community Shed at Cherry Tree

We are delighted to advise that the shed is now on order and should arrive in the Spring of next year. It will be a multi-purpose shed sub-divided between perhaps wood and metal working and arts and crafts and most importantly, it will provide opportunities for the people in the parish to meet up and enjoy each other's company again. The shed is about promoting social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course the chance just to have a good laugh.

We already have quite a list of people who want to be involved in the project and use the shed when it is in place, if you would like to add your name to our list please contact The Clerk.

Village Traffic Calming Scheme

This project has now moved into the planning phase. WSCC Highways has recommended a number of pinch points in the village to help with the planned 20mph limit through the village. Following a recent Parish Council meeting we have also requested that the 20mph limit be extended past the Six Acres roundabout on Hayes Lane to the change in speed limit at Spinners. This has now been agreed. We are expecting delivery of the planned measures in the next financial year. Also, as part of the project the Parish has agreed to fund two Speed Indicator Signs (SID's). These are being progressed in parallel to the main project.



Operation Watershed Grant

Following a lengthy application process, we have secured a substantial grant to further address the flooding issues on Hayes Lane. Funding has been secured to significantly enhance the trash screens at Spinners and Cherry Tree Farm. This work will help to reduce blocking issues. We have thought to assume that those screens may still block in times of excessive rainfall. Should that be the case and water is forced on to the road, work will also be carried out to increase the capacity of road drains and drain exit pipes at the outfall in the low area around the Streetfield Road junction. This will ensure that if water does flood onto the road it will be able to get away

quickly without causing flooding in this area. Additionally, the funding will pay for some work to reinstate ditches further along Hayes Lane towards the A29. If anyone has land that the spoil from this work could be spread on, to reduce removal costs, that would mean more work can be done with the money available. If so, please contact the Clerk.

Keep an eye on the drain outside your property. As always please do make sure that drains are kept clear of leaf fall at this time of year to ensure that water can get away when it needs to. Conway will be visiting the village on Saturday 18th December to carry out a gully clean in flooding hotspots.

New Trees

Our new trees have now been planted around the parish as part of a West Sussex County Council 'plant a tree scheme' WSCC has staked and will feed these trees for a good few years but water is essential when first planted so please if you spot a new tree close to your home, pop out and give it a drink.



Fibre Broadband for Slinfold

After months of receiving unworkable proposals from Openreach we have now received a very promising offer with a cost that is covered by the voucher scheme. That offer has now gone into the planning process at Openreach and we are expecting the final proposal within the next month. Once received those households that have expressed an interest will be contacted with a view to progressing to the next stage.



Neil Beer

As we approach the festive season and the end of the year, it is a good time to look back over the highlights and achievements of the Parish Council's year (well, actually half year, counting from

April). You will read about many of these elsewhere in the magazine, but I want to give a special mention to some here.

We had an amazing Village Day in September – partly a delayed VE celebration and partly just because the Council felt that the parish needed some cheer after a fairly dire 18 months. We estimate that 700 or 800 people came, and everyone I spoke with was brimming over with praise for the organisation. Many, many people contributed to this of course, but I would like to single out Councillor Jane Slipper for her tireless organising and our Clerk Mary Burroughs who ran the extremely popular dog show (as well as helping to organise it all).

The Council has also upgraded the play equipment and replaced the surfacing in the KGV field. Many families and children came to the 'grand opening' and the equipment has continued to be popular. And for the older residents, the Council has decided to erect a 'community shed' on parish land at Cherry Tree. This will have a dual role as a 'men's shed' and a space for other community groups to meet and work. It should be operational by the

summer next year.

Our Highways and Byways committee has been able to complete several improvements projects this year. New flower beds have been created and planted up at the Park Street/A29 entrance to the village. A 'village map' has been designed and commissioned and is now posted in half a dozen spots around the parish. We hope this will encourage visitors to explore more of the village and its surroundings. After a considerable amount of work by councillors and some residents we are really pleased that the path across Holmbush Farm which has been used by residents for many years has been formally recognised and designated an official footpath.



After many months of persistent work Councillor Chris Leyland has secured substantial funding from West Sussex County Council for work in Hayes Lane to deal with the drainage and flooding issues. This will involve replacing

stretches of the surface water drains, improving trash grates and clearing ditches. The work may involve some disruption to traffic in Hayes Lane, but the results should be well worth it.

Planning applications have been, as always, a major part of the Council's business. We have dealt with around 40 applications since April. Many, of course, are relatively minor, but this year saw much discussion, sometimes quite unpleasant and acrimonious, about the Crosby Farm (land north of the cricket pitch) application. While I fully understand the depth of feeling, on all sides, about this proposed development, I was and remain dismayed that the application led to some divisions between people across the parish and I hope that if (or when) there are contentious applications in the future we will not see a repeat of such bad feeling amongst residents.

Councillors and the Parish Clerk have continued to meet and to work through the varying restrictions and conditions this year. I am immensely grateful to them all for their commitment and hard work on behalf of our community. During the year Councillor Ed Skeates has stood down and we thank him for nearly seven years of valuable service. We also thank Councillor Lynne Watson who left this year and welcome new Councillor Emma Grundy who joined in October.

A merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

Neil

Neil Beer
Chairman



Bonfire advice to households

Having a garden bonfire almost anywhere in the Horsham District is likely to be seen as anti-social by many residents. Please do not have garden bonfires. Not only are they anti-social, they are also not the best environmental option and produce pollutants that are damaging to human health. There are always more responsible alternatives than burning garden waste.

What's wrong with a bonfire?

- It can cause a nuisance to neighbours from smoke and smells.
- Garden bonfires create dioxins and other toxic pollutants.
- Smoke and smells from bonfires can aggravate respiratory problems such

as asthma and bronchitis and affect those with heart complaints and long COVID.

- Bonfires produce carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming.
- Animals often take shelter in piles of garden waste, such as prepared bonfires

Getting rid of your rubbish

- Use your nearest amenity site (tip) to recycle and dispose of your waste. Either use the West Sussex County Council site at Hop Oast or at Billingshurst.
- Compost leaves, or take them to the tip, please don't burn them.
- Alternatively hire a skip for bulk refuse

from a local hire company.

The Law

It is an offence to cause a statutory nuisance from regular bonfires. Persistent offenders could be prosecuted by the Council and be fined up to £5,000. If you want to report a nuisance from a neighbour's bonfire, please contact: Environmental Health and Licensing Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1RL Tel: 01403 215609 publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk





Clerk's Corner

I have been your clerk now for 13 years, how

time flies. Over the years, the village has 'grown just a little' and it is lovely to welcome new people to the parish. They bring renewed life, fresh ideas and lots enthusiasm about how much they love our rural village.

This time around I want to ask the good people of Slinfold including our newcomers if they can help in two ways...

Number 1 is the Provision of Allotments – one of my biggest frustrations is not being able to find space for an allotment site or an allotment garden. Slinfold is one of the biggest parishes in the district with much agricultural land, yet we still cannot secure a bit of land to provide some allotments.

I was watching John Craven in Countryfile on the BBC a few weeks ago when he visited a large house whose owner had set aside part of the grounds surrounding his house for a community allotment space. He wanted to give something back to the community and no doubt in return for his kindness always had a fresh cabbage or some potatoes for his Sunday lunch! I would



like to think that there is a landowner in our parish who has space in their grounds or perhaps a couple of acres of field that could be donated, leased or perhaps even purchased by the Parish Council, CAN YOU HELP?

Number 2 is a request for volunteers to join the Slinfold Volunteer Hub – the Slinfold Help Scheme will soon be wound up and we must give grateful thanks to all involved in this great scheme over the years. Thank you to Angela Angel and her team of volunteers.

In its place, we have a Volunteer Hub which currently operates via a call to me, your Clerk, and then I contact a 'WhatsApp Group' i.e., a list of volunteers who have already signed up to help a fellow parishioner in a time of need. The hub for example will take a patient to a doctors or hospital appointment or pick up a prescription or a bit of shopping. Would you like to join the WhatsApp Group of volunteers? All out of pocket expenses can be paid. Please contact me if YOU CAN HELP?

So, if you want to give something back and can help with either an allotment space or can volunteer for the support hub please call or email me I would love to talk to you some more.

**Your clerk
Mary**



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 and Streetfield Roads, at the entrance to Six Acres, outside the Village Hall and opposite the Chequers Inn, Rowhook. These have now been filled. If they require another refill please contact the Parish Clerk.

The bins contain a mixture of salt and grit that is intended primarily for use on public footpaths. The mix 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.

The Parish Council is happy to hear from any vulnerable residents 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)

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

Hedges and overhanging vegetation

Next time you step outside onto the public footpath from your home please 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.

Please refrain from parking on pavements and verges

Please can we remind residents that it is anti-social to park wholly or partially on a pavement or grass verge. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments, and people with prams or pushchairs. In many areas of the village, parking on the pavements forces pedestrians and other pavement users to move into the road which is not acceptable as our village roads are narrow and busy.

Slinfold Parish Council respectfully also requests that drivers refrain from parking their vehicles on the grass verges. Whilst we understand that it not always easy to find a parking space on the road and that over the years this has become even more difficult, we are keen to protect the environment and ensure that every area in the village continues to look at its best for the enjoyment of all. We would be very grateful if you would park your vehicle on the road and we thank you for not parking on a pavement or grass verge.

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 John 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

n.beer@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

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Parish Councillors

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Stuart Ritchie

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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)

Call 01243 642105 or visit

love.westsussex.gov.uk



MONEY MATTERS

Annual Accounts to 31 March 2021 and Precept Requirement 2022-23

The Parish Council's annual accounts to 31 March 2021 have been signed off by Moore, the external auditor, 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 2022-23, the Parish Council has agreed to a small inflationary increase from £65.05 per annum to £66.35 for a Band D property i.e. an increase of £1.30 or 2.5p per week.

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 usually 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 these documents at the notice board at the bus shelter in The Street, or in the Village Shop.

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS JANUARY-JUNE 2022

Date	Meeting	Starting at
Thursday 27th January	PARISH COUNCIL	7:30pm
Thursday 24 February	PARISH COUNCIL	7:30pm
Thursday 31st March	PARISH COUNCIL	7:30pm
Thursday 28th April	PARISH COUNCIL	7:30pm
Thursday 26th May	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30pm
Thursday 30th June	PARISH COUNCIL	7:30pm

