



News from Slinfold Parish Council

Welcome to the winter issue of Parish Council News for 2020. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the parish of Slinfold (around 950) and aims to keep 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, planned for June 2021, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back page).

Christmas in Slinfold



It has been difficult to decide this year, given the Covid-19 pandemic, how the Parish Council might be involved this year in the festive season celebrations. Last year we enjoyed carols around the Christmas tree with mulled wine and delicious mince pies, not to forget the visit from Santa with his sack full of goodies for the children. Also, a number of our senior citizens enjoyed a fabulous home-cooked Christmas dinner at the Village Hall and if they were unable to attend in person this meal was delivered by Santa's elves to their door.

So how will we help to spread a little cheer this year?

Our **Village Christmas Tree** was lit on 8th December. The Parish Council would, as always, like to thank Professor David and Mrs Penelope Glaister for allowing us to put the tree on their lawn outside the Old Post Office.

Sparkling Slinfold Competition see the fabulous poster designed by 9 year old Sam and his Mum.

Children's Christmas Trail 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.

Sparkling Slinfold!

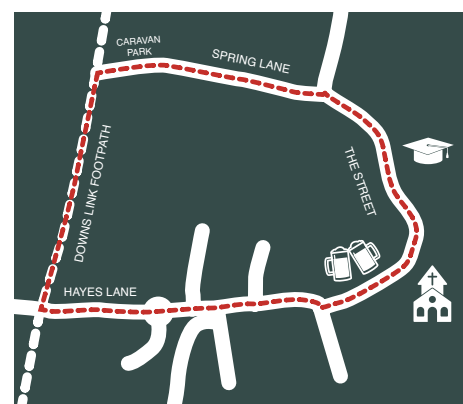
Let's all make a special effort to brighten up Slinfold this Christmas! Join us in decorating our homes, so that moving through our Parish lifts our hearts.

All decked houses will be automatically entered into a small competition, with prizes being awarded by the Parish Council. Decorate by the 18th December; prizes by 24th.

Please post images of our sparkling Parish on Facebook!

We hope to have a Christmas trail, with prizes for the children, by the end of term. Please keep an eye out for details on noticeboards and the village Facebook page.

Date	Event
8th Dec 2020	Village Christmas tree lit
18th to 24th Dec 2020	House decoration judging period
19th Dec 2020	Children's Christmas trail begins



Seniors Christmas – we regret that the annual Christmas lunch is off the menu this year but instead we shall deliver a goodie box to those who would usually have joined us for lunch. Normal business will hopefully resume next year.

Chairman's report *by Chairman Neil Beer*



Neil Beer

I write this as we come towards the end of a most difficult year, with continuing uncertainties about the future too. However, without in the least belittling the troubles

residents have had, I would like to try to concentrate on the positive things that have also happened.

Firstly, I want to praise the efforts of Sam, Wendy and Donna at the Slinfold shop. Throughout the year, including through the lockdowns, they have kept the shop open and stocked and provided a vital service for some residents who have found it difficult to go further afield. They have also made up and delivered a number of food parcels for elderly and vulnerable residents who have been shielding.

Praise is also due to the groups of volunteers who have helped residents with shopping, medicines and deliveries and to anyone in the parish who has, in these dark times, brought light and care into the lives of their neighbours.

Thank you so much, on behalf of everyone in the parish to the shop and our amazing group of local volunteers.

The business of the Parish Council has continued as far as this has been possible. Since March, all meetings have been held virtually and have included members of the public. Although initially unfamiliar, this has settled into a "new normal" routine now. We have been able to progress a number of projects – you will find descriptions of these in other parts of the magazine – with some of them likely to complete this year or early next.

Although, inevitably, some things

have had to be cancelled, such as the VE Day celebrations, some others have continued, at least for a while. We are grateful to 4The Youth who managed to keep some youth services going through the early part of the year, helping some parents struggling perhaps with children at home 24/7. At the moment, the Parish Council has asked them to suspend their services but to stay ready to re-start, we hope again in the New Year.

The Parish Council has come up with another plan this year instead of its tradition of cooking and serving a Christmas lunch for some of our elderly and vulnerable residents. This year those who would have been invited to the lunch will instead receive a surprise parcel delivered to their doorstep!

As always, planning has been a major part of the Council's business; and on occasions a controversial one. Building has been underway for a while now on the Welwyn site and has re-started of late at Spring Lane. The developments have sometimes led to disruption for local residents, which have been taken up with the developers when appropriate.

An outline planning application for the Crosby Farm site (the land north of the cricket field), which is a site allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan,

was rejected by Horsham District Council in November. Development in this area is sensitive, we are fully aware, and includes an important opportunity for the Cricket Club to re-develop its pavilion. The Parish Council will continue to try to achieve the best outcome for the whole parish on this site.

During the summer, outline plans for re-development of The Cobblers were presented by Saxon Weald and discussed with the Parish Council. I am pleased that Saxon Weald listened to our input and have revised their initial plans to provide smaller dwellings which we think will be more suitable for residents wishing to down-size from larger homes in the parish. There is a public consultation going on at the moment (late November), and I expect that a planning application will be made early in the New Year. The Parish Council is pressing Saxon Weald and Horsham District Council to give priority to Slinfold elderly residents when it comes to granting tenancies for the new properties.

I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Neil Beer



What matters to you for 2021?

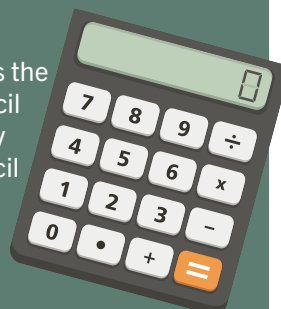
The Parish Council would be delighted to hear from you regarding 'What Matters to You?' That may be a new project that the Parish Council could look to implement in 2021 or it may simply be something rather annoying that really bugs you that we could perhaps help with! Please get in touch with the Clerk or one of your local Councillors.

MONEY MATTERS

Annual Accounts to 31 March 2020 and Precept Requirement 2021-22

The Parish Council's annual accounts to 31 March 2020 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 2021-22, the Parish Council has agreed that there will be no increase i.e. precept will remain at £65.05 for a Band D property.



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



PLANNING MATTERS

Why did Slinfold need a Neighbourhood Plan?

- To empower the Community
- To develop a shared vision for the Parish
- To propose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built
- To identify and protect important local green spaces
- To influence what new buildings should look like

After a lengthy process, which started in 2014, the Plan was 'made' in June 2018. 83% of the parish voted in favour of its acceptance. Of the 15 sites originally selected four were approved and built into the final plan. Those sites are:



Aerial photograph courtesy of Paul Armstrong, www.picturesfromabove.co.uk

Land East of Hayes

Plans not yet submitted.

Development will be supported where:

- 1 The design positively responds to the prevailing character of the surrounding area (i.e. a linear proposal which mirrors that on the opposite side of Hayes Lane);
- 2 The houses are no more than two and a half storeys in height to reflect the local vernacular;
- 3 Proposals allow for the retention of existing mature trees and hedges;
- 4 Proposals include an appropriate buffer to enable and improve access to the Downs Link; and
- 5 Proposals seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity and existing ecological networks.

Crosby Farm

Plans submitted but refused by HDC.

Development will be supported where:

- 1 The design positively responds to the prevailing character of the surrounding area;
- 2 The houses are no more than two storeys in height to reflect the local vernacular;
- 3 Proposals allow for the retention of existing mature trees and hedges;
- 4 Proposals create Public Rights of Way to link the site to existing Public Rights of Way; and
- 5 The site facilitates the development of a new cricket pavilion.

West of Spring Lane

Plans approved.

Development will be supported where:

- 1 The design positively responds to the prevailing character of the surrounding area;
- 2 The houses are no more than two storeys in height to reflect the local rural vernacular;
- 3 Proposals allow for the retention of existing mature trees and hedges;
- 4 A suitable landscape buffer seeks to protect the character of the area particularly on the eastern side of the site along Spring Lane;
- 5 Access is to be gained from the northern part of Spring Lane; and
- 6 Proposals include open space on the southern part of the site.

The Cobblers

Plans out for public consultation.

Development will be supported here where:

- 1 Proposals facilitate the upgrade or replacement of the existing 17 units;
- 2 Proposals demonstrate that special regard has been had to preserving and enhancing the character of the adjacent Conservation Area;
- 3 A suitable mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the needs of current and future households is provided, with a focus on the elderly;
- 4 Proposals allow for the retention of existing mature trees and hedges; and
- 5 Proposals include a replacement scout hut if no alternative provision can be made elsewhere.

Slinfold Parish Council remains committed in seeking to obtain the best outcome for all when plans are brought forward for these sites. Details of the Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Parish Council website.

THE RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



Jane Slipper

Hello, I am Jane Slipper and I am the Chairman of the Parish Council's Recreation and Environment Committee. So what does that mean exactly? Well... when it comes to 'recreation' that means in the main, the maintenance and enhancement of our recreational areas which include play, sports and community areas at KGV, Cherry Tree and Six Acres. It also includes the promotion of youth

services to include the Slinfold Youth Club, the phone boxes which serve as library and information centres and organising village activities to include seniors' teas and lunches, a Village Day and Christmas celebrations (see the front page).



The environment' element relates to a duty of care for just that. For example, we look to protect the health and safety of trees on parish land as well as to promote projects to encourage new planting. The *Slinfold 100 project* in 2020 has been a great success. Not only am I pleased to report that we have easily managed to distribute well in excess of 100 new trees for planting but there are also many bird boxes now taking pride of place in trees and gardens around the parish; boxes range from small bird boxes to large owl boxes fit for a queen.

2020 has not been an easy year for any of us and some of our planned projects regrettably had to be postponed, for example the VE Day celebrations in May. If permitted, we shall come back in 2021 with a fabulous Village Day event as well as having even better Christmas celebrations next year, Santa will visit again!

There is some 'Work in Progress' for 2021 including consulting on some new play equipment (see below) for the KGV play area and plans to host a meeting as soon as possible to progress the potential for a men's shed which may morph to a community shed. Some new litter bins are to be ordered as well as a new dog bin for the Downs Link.

Jane Slipper
Chair of the Recreation and Environment Committee



THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS COMMITTEE



Adrian Roberts

This group is committed to seeking opportunities to improve the look & feel of our street scene, to maintain Slinfold's status as one of West Sussex's most beautiful places to live, work and visit; and there has never been a more important time than now to get behind our cherished pub and shop by keeping them alive and promoting them as widely as possible, so that we don't go down the same road as so many other small villages.

So, in the coming months, we are hoping that Slinfold will benefit from several projects designed to uplift our image and attract interest. These include:

- Our own village map – proudly displayed in the village, offering up to three village pub walks, including our original 'village walkabout';
- Improved signage at the two main entrances to the village, to promote Slinfold as 'an historic village'; and new village gates at each of the three entrances;
- New planting at the Park Street and Lyons Road entrances – designed by one of our villagers;
- New tree planting on our verges – where funding has been set aside to identify up to 20 locations across The Parish that might benefit from additional planting (this time next year) as part of WSCC's 'donate a tree' scheme. If you are aware of such a location, please let the Parish Council know!

Other projects underway as part of the Highways & Byways Committee's work include;

- Traffic Management – an application with West Sussex County Council, to look at a series of improvements on our roads;
- Operation 'Watershed' – grant funding to improve the village's flood defence systems;
- Broadband – all households will have received a leaflet (funded by the Parish Council) offering a Government funded opportunity for our village to benefit from 'full-fibre' broadband.

So, hopefully some positives to look out for soon, which will be a fitting result for all the hard work.

Councillor Adrian Roberts
Chair of the Highways and Byways Committee



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.

Need help during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Support is available if you, or someone you know, are in need of help during the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.

This will primarily be through the West Sussex Covid-19 Community Hub or NHS Responders as follows: -

- Visit the WSCC Community Hub website or call 033 022 27980 (8am-8pm, seven days a week)
- Call the NHS Volunteer Responder Service on 0808 196 3646 (8am-8pm seven days a week)

Slinfold Parish Council also has an established volunteer group so local support is available particularly for food shopping and the collection of medicines. Please call 01403 785864 or 07733 359479 during weekday office hours should you need help. If urgent please call the seven days a week service above.

If you need help deciding on who to go to for help, you can call Horsham District Council's Customer Services Team on 01403 215100, they will be able to direct you to the right place. They have an extensive list of contacts to include organisations who can help with the supply of food, collection of medication, food banks, support for older people, social care, mental health, finances and employment and domestic violence etc.

Slinfold Help Scheme

This long established scheme is much in need of new volunteers to help continue with the invaluable work

that they do. Do you have a little bit of spare time on your hands, love Slinfold and want to give something back then we would love to hear from you. Please email clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk for further information.

Spotted!

This rare white squirrel – a true albino due to its pink eyes – was spotted in the Parish during the first lockdown. Only one in 100,000 squirrels are thought to be albino and it is reported there is a hotspot in the Horsham area! Have you seen one in Slinfold?



Clerk's Corner

Hello, I am not going to say too much this time as the Parish Council (PC) Chairman and the Committee Chairs have pretty much summed up what the PC has been up to in 2020 together with some of our plans for 2021.

It is good to see that we have a full complement of 11 councillors once again and I am looking forward to working with them. We have introduced a new committee structure this year and have appointed some new Chairmen. What with Covid-19 restrictions, planning applications and new developments in the parish as well as great projects either

underway or planned by our Highways, Byways and Recreation and the Environment Committees, I am being kept on my toes!

We could not achieve all that we do without the voluntary work and support given by our councillors. They help to make Slinfold the wonderful parish that it is to live in. That goes too for our Environment Officers, Tim and John who you may have seen collecting litter, cutting back vegetation, erecting, checking and maintaining parish assets not to forget clearing ditches, picking up and clearing drains and trash screens all to help improve drainage and reduce the risk of flooding. Thank you both for your hard work, commitment and contribution.

More developments as voted for in the Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan are likely to come forward in 2021 e.g. Crosby Farm and The Cobblers. Plans for these two developments are in or are working their way through the planning system.

Horsham District Council is the local planning authority who decide whether to refuse or permit a planning application, it is not the Parish Council's responsibility to do this. As a statutory consultee we are given a short period of time (usually 3 weeks) to comments on applications. Please regularly check council agendas for the planning applications that the council has been consulted on, join us in meetings if you would like to comment and don't forget to send your comments to the HDC Planning Officer.

I am laughing at myself now having read this back as I started by saying I wasn't going to say too much – what happened to that plan, ha ha!

Hopeful times ahead Slinfold. Wishing you good health, happiness and a Covid free 2021.

**Kind regards
your Clerk
Mary**



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

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

(Roads and Travel)

Call 01243 642105 or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel

alternatively go to

love.

westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex
County Council
*(Public Rights
of Way)* –

email pro@westsussex.gov.uk



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 under normal circumstances take place in the Parish Room at the Village Hall however at the time of issue of this schedule it is to be decided whether the meetings will take place in person or virtually. 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 for further information.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS JANUARY-JUNE 2021

Date	Meeting	Starting at
Thursday 28th January	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 25th February	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 25th March	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 29th April	Parish Council	7:30pm
Thursday 27th May	Annual Council Meeting (Appoint Chair/Select Committees)	7.30pm
Thursday 24th June	Parish Council	7:30pm

A message from your
Parish Council



STOP! Think....



Bin your dog's stink!

Thank you for reading this and
having courtesy for others!