

Rendezvous

March 2014

Issue 09

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

..... here are some diary dates in March

- 6 Mar** – Parish Council Meeting starting with the public session at 6.30pm
- 25 Mar** – Recreation Ground Committee starting with the public session at 6pm
- 25 Mar** – Planning Committee starting with the public session at 7pm
- 27 Mar** – Council Surgery at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

Norman Baker - Surgery

Norman Baker will be holding a surgery in the small village hall on Friday 14 March 2014 between 2pm-4pm. Norman holds surgeries throughout the constituency where he meets with local people to discuss any issues they wish to raise with him. Surgery is by appointment only so please call 01273 480281

Local Public Transport

ESCC has decided to remove the discretionary concession of free travel between 9.00am and 9.30am for concessionary pass holders, effective from April 2014. This will bring ESCC into line with the statutory start time for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme. The concession applies to off peak hours which are from 9.30am until 11pm Monday-Friday and all day at weekends and Bank Holidays.

Community Dividend

Wealden District Councillors are each to be allocated a *Community Dividend* to spend on projects in their Council wards. This follows the problems with the waste collection service last year. The one-off payment of £110,000 funded by Kier is for the whole of Wealden and can be used for existing community schemes or to get new projects started. Cllr Peck will be allocated about £5,000 for his ward, and parishes will be asked to submit formal applications for funding support in due course. The PC is giving consideration to applicable projects. Further details of the scheme will be announced in the spring.

Village Hall Loans

The Parish Council, as trustee of the Old Village Hall Trust, has recently been able to wind-up the trust and use the funds released to reduce the remainder of the original loans (£120k) taken out in 1999 to help finance the current Village Hall. The total outstanding is now <£18k and will be paid off by 2019.

Public Toilets



A task on the *Village Action Plan* was to consider providing public loos in the Village Hall car park. Following a review it has been concluded that this will be cost prohibitive. However, we will now consider the *Community Toilet Scheme*, operated by Wealden DC, and take a look at the possibility of

providing a facility adjacent to the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, the cost hurdle is again likely to be the stumbling block.



Meet the Parish Clerk

Here we meet Dr Katrina Larkin who was appointed Parish Clerk in 2001. Raised in rural Kent, Katrina spent her

early career in central London, working first as an administrator for the Church of England, and later as a lecturer in Hebrew Bible at King's College, London. She holds two first class honours degrees in Geography and Divinity, and a Ph.D in Hebrew Bible. Following the birth of their daughter Caroline, she and husband David moved to rural Sussex where Katrina returned to the work place as a teaching assistant at a local primary school she taught kids to read, and they taught her about behaviour management! She began clerking in 2008 and has the CiLCA qualification.



Mid-Winter Party

A total of 71 children from the village attended the Council's mid-winter party at the village hall on 25 January. A great time was had by all with a bouncy castle, party games, disco, BBQ and plenty of party food. If you have any ideas for more children's activities, please let us know.

Did You Know?

The Tapsel gate is unique to Sussex. Only six examples survive - our two churches have one each, and another is at the church in Jevington.

Friston Pond

A tree has been brought down by the high winds and is lying in the Pond. We are leaving it where it is until the spring and will deal with it then.

2014/15 Budget

The Council's expenditure budget for 2014/15 has been approved at £53,870. Planned receipts are £8,983 leaving a potential precept (local tax) requirement of £44,887. However, the Council were keen not to increase the precept and agreed to set it at £40,092 (ie no increase for the fifth year running). The shortfall for next year of £4,795 will be met from reserves. The local precept per notional Band 'D' home in the parish has fallen marginally to £41.17; about half that of Wealden overall.

Farrer Hall

Agreement has now been reached whereby the National Trust and the Church will be the contracting parties for the lease of the Farrer Hall, and the PC will no longer need to facilitate any agreement. The PC may however still rent an area within the hall. We'll keep you posted.

Parish Council Elections – May 2015

This is the second in our information series in the run-up to the 2015 elections. The Parish Council consists of nine members, supported by the Parish Clerk, and Council meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month (except August) in the Small Village Hall starting at 6.30pm. The Council has five Standing Committees (see right-hand column) which meet at varying times throughout the year. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Downlands Way noticeboard and on the Council website. All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and every one starts with a public session at which the public may ask and answer questions and comment on any item of business. The Council operates within a strict Governance framework which is set out in three formal documents. These are Standing Orders (operating rules), Code of Conduct (behavioural rules) and Financial Regulations, all of which are available in the on-line library of our website. For further information on any aspect of our business, or for hardcopies of any document, please call the Clerk or any Councillor (details in the right-hand column). Maybe we'll see you shortly at one of our meetings.



Recreation Ground

All the bollards along the roadside edge of the Recreation Ground have been concreted in to help protect this *Field In Trust* site against unauthorised access by vehicles. The budget (see above) and forecast includes £5k for Pavilion maintenance/refurb in each of the next two years, falling to £2k pa thereafter.

Village Survey

The results of the survey have been compiled and now we need to interpret them. Here's a taster – to both the questions *Would you like more dog bins in the village?* and *Should there be discreet lighting in the village car park?* – the votes were fairly evenly split between yes/no. So where do we go from there? We'll see! Just to remind you that the survey will be the main topic at the *Annual Village Meeting* on 19 May - details to follow nearer the day.

Website

Over the past 12 months there has been an ave of 2,700 pages read per month. <http://www.parish-council.com/eastdeanandfristonparishcouncil/>

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Rob Page (chair)	423484
Phill Hill (vice chair)	423990
Tim Bryant	422442
Dave Cooper	422486
Joe Cullinane	423834
Stewart Fuller	423710
John Hine	422275
Simon Hunt	423669
Jen Sargent	422326

Parish Clerk

Katrina Larkin
The Old Cottage, Lewes Road
Laughton, East Sussex, BN8 6BQ
01323 811870

Parish Council Meetings

The next two Council meetings will be held in the Small Village Hall at 6.30pm on:

6 March and 3 April

Residents are very welcome to attend, observe and participate in the public session. The agenda and minutes are placed on Council noticeboards and on the Council website.

Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Finance & General Purposes	Stewart Fuller
Planning	Stewart Fuller
Rec Ground	John Hine
Rights of Way	Phillip Hill
Village Events	Tim Bryant

Finances for year to January

Receipts *	£64,943
Payments	£40,693
Cash in Hand	£57,098
Budgeted spend for the year	£45,838

*includes £13k+ from the Old Village Hall Trust to reduce the PWLB loan

Email Register

The Parish Council has an email register for use in sending out urgent or important items or where timescales are short. There are nearly 200 people on the register; if you would like to be included please send an email, with your name and address in the subject line, to:

edf.email@yahoo.co.uk