

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

..... here are some diary dates in October for meetings in the Village Hall:-

5 Oct - *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

17 Oct - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

26 Oct - *Council Surgery* at the Village Coffee Morning at 10am

Councillors

There have been a number of movements in Parish Councillors over the past few months. Stewart Fuller stood down as Chair in August; he currently remains a Councillor and the Council will select a new chair at their October meeting. After two resignations, Brian Greenwell joined us in July and we are planning to co-opt at the October meeting. This will bring us back to full strength of nine Councillors supported by the Clerk. Current contact details are shown overleaf and you can find out a little more about each councillor on the Council's website.

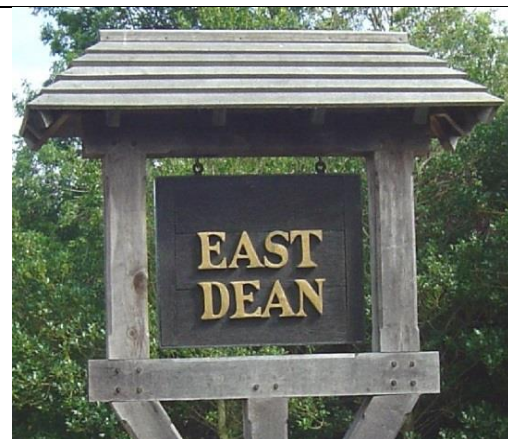
General Power of Competence

Historically, local authorities in the UK (including Parish Councils) were permitted only to do things they had specific statutory powers to do. Then the Localism Act 2011 provided that "a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do"; *the General Power of Competence*. Commercial activities may be undertaken but this must be done through a company. The new power extended to 'eligible' parish councils which are those with at least two-thirds of their members having been elected (ie not co-opted), and in which the clerk has completed one of a specified range of training courses. We met the criteria in May 2015 and adopted the power in September

2015. This lasted until June 2017 when the changes in councillors meant we only had five elected with four co-opted members. The General Power has therefore lapsed; but any decisions made during the period when it was in place are still valid and actionable. Going forward, we have to fall back to S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which permits councils to incur expenditure for purposes for which they do not have a specific power. The S137, which covers items like our mowing of greens in private ownership, assisting ESCC with extra verge cuts, and making donations to local good causes, has a limit for 2017/18 of £7.57 per elector. Our aim is to regain the General Power of Competence at the next PC general election in May 2019.

Use It or Lose It

The road closures in September, owing to the replacement of gas mains programme, impacted the number of residents visiting the Barn Stores, and in particular the Post Office. Although the numbers have improved somewhat the footfall is not as high as it used to be, and this could impact the viability of the business. The PO authorities have also recently questioned the level of support being given to the PO facility. It's an old adage, but remember *use it or lose it*.



Neighbourhood Watch

East Dean & Friston's approach to Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is a joint initiative between the Residents' Association and the Parish Council. We are not a member of any National or Regional NHW scheme but we do share the same aims of *bringing neighbours together to create a strong, friendly and active community*. At the core of the ED&F scheme are the two email registers maintained by the RA and PC, and a NHW webpage on the PC website. These are used to advise residents of NHW related information with the RA taking the lead and focusing on local information and advice, including related police notices and updates on scams etc, whilst the PC tends to deal with high level NHW general information (amongst other things). To have your email address included on one or both of the registers, send your name and email details to edfpc1@gmail.com and/or edfresidentsassociation@gmail.com. Please remember - a number of homes in the Parish do not have access to emails/internet. Please be neighbourly and keep neighbours advised; and watch out for vulnerable neighbours.

Smoke Alarms

It may not be top of your list of jobs to do around the home, but it's always a good time to check your smoke alarm.

Yellow Lines

Following a meeting with ESCC Highways, it was agreed yellow lines will be provided in Gilberts Drive opposite the Lower Street exit; to both sides of Lower Street where it exits onto Gilberts Drive; to extend the existing yellow lines to the door of the Thai Terre restaurant; in Upper Street opposite the bowls club exit and also along the narrow road section adjacent to the holiday cottages all the way to the A259 junction; from the junction of Michel Dene Road/A259 on both sides back to the end of speed restriction signs. ESCC will now be undertaking public consultation. No parking restrictions were considered necessary at the Friston Church slip road, except for 'no parking' signs on the adjacent flint wall

Garden Bonfires

Bonfires can be very irritating to neighbours if the smoke stops them enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging out washing etc. Although there are no laws against having a bonfire, there are laws for the nuisance they can



cause, and you can't get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution or harm people's health; this includes burning it. You could be fined if you light a fire and allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic. Wealden District Council can issue an 'abatement notice' if a bonfire is causing a (frequent) nuisance to neighbours, and there is a penalty fine of up to £5,000 if the notice is not adhered to. In addition,

the deeds of many houses in ED&F contain restrictive covenants regarding bonfires. You can always get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it via the bins provided by WDC. However, if after considering all aspects, you do decide to have a (legitimate) garden bonfire, please hold it in the evening and do be neighbourly and let those close by know in advance.

Staying Secure On-Line

The following is based on the Government's Cyber Aware campaign:-

- install the latest software and app updates
- use a **strong, separate password** for your email account (you can use three random words or numbers and characters to create a strong password)
- secure your tablet or smartphone with a screen lock
- always back-up your most important data

And remember:-

- spammers could gain access to a friend's account, so if you get an uncharacteristic email containing a link from a friend, do not click on it but find another way of contacting them to check that the message is genuine
- leave a website if you feel suspicious – if the site doesn't look or 'feel' right, if there is text that doesn't appear to have any purpose or doesn't tie in with the rest of the site, or if you feel uneasy for any reason
- regularly check your social media privacy settings to control exactly what you're sharing with whom
- if you're going away on holiday, don't advertise it on social media!
- if you use a wireless network at home, password-protect it

Website

There's a significant amount of helpful info on our website. Take a look:

edfparishcouncil.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mike Keller (Vice Chair)	422091
Stewart Fuller	423710
Brian Greenwell	423799
Ian Haydock	423920
Phill Hill	423990
Amanda Hookham	422180
Jen Sargent	422326
Paul Seeley	422361
Vacancy	-

Standing Committee

Planning Chair: Mike Keller

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 Village Hall at 6.30pm on:

5 Oct and 2 Nov

Residents are very welcome to attend, observe and participate in the public sessions. Agendas are placed on the Council noticeboard in Downlands Way and on our website.

Finances for year to Aug '17

Receipts	£28,456
Payments	£27,327
Cash in Hand	£49,186

Playground

This project is now being considered in a phased approach. Phase 1 would consist of a multi-play unit replacing the existing cabin slide and multi-play climber (both of which have reached the end of their useful life). The remaining equipment is fundamentally in good condition. The cost of Phase 1, including associated ground work and new fencing, is in the region of £38k (compared with the overall project cost of £66k). A final decision on the way forward will be taken at our October meeting, with a possible Phase 1 installation in Q2 2018.

Email Register

Our email register is just one of the ways we use to keep you up to date. To be included simply send an email, with your name and address in the subject line to:

edfpc1@gmail.com