

Your Parish Council

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Areas of responsibility to be confirmed.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please refer to the agendas displayed on the village notice boards and website for information on when meetings will be held - a meeting will only be called to meet CDC deadlines.

Meetings are held on a Tuesday in the Committee Room at the Village Hall at 8.00 pm and are currently schedule for:

1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June

How to contact your Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Louise Davies
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PO Box 255, Wisborough Green
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Alternatively, letters can be posted in the Parish Council letterbox at the Village Hall.

Wisborough Green Parish Council Parish Council News

Issue: 23

March 2016

Chairman's Message

In this edition we update you on Gatwick, the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Winterfold planning application, the development of a Traffic Management Plan and a number of other local topics. As far as my contribution in concerned, I want to advise you of the Precept position for 2016/17.

As you may know, the Parish Council sets the Precept for the year in January. In recent years, your Council has done its' best to minimise increases, and in some years has applied no increase at all. However, much has changed in the last few years for all Parish Councils. Village maintenance costs have increased and the size and scope of some of the issues or projects which the Council has to deal with have become greater and, for example, thinking of the oil well application or Crouchlands, more unpredictable.

As District and County Councils find themselves under extreme financial pressure, more has fallen to parishes to deal with, for example our public toilets. Currently, your Council is refurbishing the Old Workhouse attached to the Village Hall. This is a large project which is both necessary and desirable in terms of maintaining an important Village asset and providing a useful income stream once the costs of improvement are recovered.

A number of local parishes have radically increased their Precepts recently and this year, your Council feels it has no choice but to do the same. This is necessary to finance the ever larger ongoing operations of the Council to maintain our village and to rebuild reserves following the completion of the Old Workhouse refurbishment.

Accordingly, the Precept for 2016/17 rises by £15,000, which, for a Band D property, is an increase of approximately £20/year (or 39p per week). Whilst this is obviously significant, your Council feels strongly that it is necessary for the reasons given above and will continue to do its' best to provide the Village with good value for money.

As spring approaches let's hope we can begin to enjoy the amenities that our village has to offer, some of which should be steadily improved by the actions you will read about in this newsletter.

Keith Charman, Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan - referendum in May or June

Those of you who have been following the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan for Wisborough Green will know that the culmination of the process is a local referendum through which the Plan is agreed upon, or not, by our residents. In our case this is likely to take place in May or June this year.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been 3 years in the making and has recently been through a validation process whereby a Planning Examiner reviewed our Plan to see if it fulfils the 'basic conditions' of national planning policy. The Examiner can make one of three recommendations:

- The Plan goes forward to referendum without amendment.
- The Plan goes forward to referendum but with amendments proposed by the Examiner to bring it into line with national policy.
- The Plan does not go forward.

The recommendation for our Plan is that it goes forward to referendum with amendments most of which relate either to changes that have occurred to planning policy since we started the neighbourhood planning process or where the policies we want to see are now covered by the recently published Chichester District Local Plan. So we now proceed to referendum.

The Parish Council is very aware of the local concerns raised by the recent application for housing development on the land behind the Cricketers, known as Winterfold. This site is in the Neighbourhood Plan but with a timescale for development after 2025. It is unfortunate that this phasing was one of the policies that the Planning Examiner said was inconsistent with national planning policy. We have recently met with Planning Officers at Chichester District Council to try and challenge the Examiner's view on the phasing issue, but to no avail. Any reference to phasing will now have to be removed from the Neighbourhood Plan. Conversely the Examiner supported and strengthened the Greenspace policy associated with the Winterfold site. This will ensure that the Parish will gain a significant area of Greenspace for the benefit of the community.

Neighbourhood Plans are now a key component of Planning Policy, setting out as they do local policies to inform the future development of the community. The local planning department are required to take account of Neighbourhood Plans when determining both future policy and individual planning applications. Likewise the Parish Council will use the Plan to guide its response to future planning applications.

Without a Neighbourhood Plan the decision making reverts solely to Chichester District Council, reducing local influence considerably and making the village vulnerable to unwanted development. The Neighbourhood Plan referendum is important. It's important that we get a good turnout and it's important that we use it to ensure that we influence the future of Wisborough Green and not leave it to other people. Details of the referendum date will be sent to you by CDC and also advertised in the village.

Village Pond

Despite having the pond weed removed in autumn 2014, it came back with a vengeance in 2015! The Parish Council has therefore sought advice from a company which specialises in pond restoration to get a better understanding of what is going on in terms of sediment, water quality and fish numbers; quotations for the recommended work are now being obtained. The work will include weed removal but in the meantime, a local resident has kindly offered to remove some weed for his own pond.

Having a pond warden would obviously be beneficial for the village pond, in terms of monitoring the condition, removing litter and potentially attending training. If you are interested in looking after this valuable and attractive village asset then please contact the Clerk on 701102.

Hedges again !

Please cut back hedges before the birds start nesting, officially from 1st March! Clear pedestrian access, especially for those with wheelchairs and pushchairs, is important, so please cut back vegetation bordering pavements. Likewise, it is important to cut back hedges along the roads to keep road signage clear and for cyclists and pedestrians that may need to make a hasty retreat. This is a general reminder to all and the Parish Council will be dropping a note into properties where there is a particular concern. Thank you for your co-operation.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

In the Committee Room at the
back of the Village Hall
7.45 pm on the following
Tuesdays:

15 March
19 April
17 May
21 June

Additional meetings may be called.
Members of the public are welcome to attend. The agenda is published on the village notice boards and website. It includes a Public Questions item, which allows you to make any comments or raise concerns to the Parish Council.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2016
VILLAGE HALL
8 PM

YOUR CHANCE TO HEAR MORE
ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL'S
ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU .

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

The Old Workhouse gets a facelift !

As mentioned in the last newsletter, after living in the property for 30 years or so, the tenant left at the end of October. The original conversion was undertaken in the 1950's and as such, the property now has a number of issues that need to be resolved, as well as general updating. Due to the terms of the last Lease, the Parish Council was unable to charge a commercial rent.

Your Council has therefore made the decision to use this opportunity to fully refurbish and update the property to a high standard in order to obtain a good commercial rent. Although the initial expenditure is likely to exceed £50,000, due to the age of the building and the number of problems identified, in the longer term a commercial rent will provide the Parish with additional income to support our community.

Village Maintenance

By the time you receive this newsletter, one of the Horse Chestnut trees on the Little Green (outside Upfield Stores) will have been removed. Sadly this tree had a disease which was causing it to struggle and it would have become unsafe. The tree will be replaced in due course.

This wet weather and soft ground conditions have meant that in some places the verges have been damaged by vehicles. This damage will be repaired when the conditions improve, but can we please remind you not to drive or park vehicles on the grass. Thank you.

PARISH SPRING CLEAN

LITTER PICKING
SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2016
2.00 PM
AT THE SUNDIAL GREEN

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED.



DO POP DOWN
AND
LEND A HAND.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH DISTRICT AND OTHER LOCAL NEWS

District Councillor
Josef Ransley's
regular news update can be
found at

[http://
www.chichesterdistrictcouncil.info/
blogs/councillor-ransley/](http://www.chichesterdistrictcouncil.info/blogs/councillor-ransley/)

Subscribe to receive regular
updates.

Youth Club to close

The Youth Club Management Committee has taken the sad decision to close the Village Youth Club for the foreseeable future. We have been unsuccessful in recruiting a new youth worker after the last one left in the autumn due to a change in personal circumstances. We have also pursued an alternative strategy and opened up discussions with Horsham Matters to explore if the running of the Youth Club could be outsourced to them. Horsham Matters is a charity that now runs most of the Youth Clubs in Horsham District and was interested in doing likewise in Wisborough Green.

As with any outsourcing arrangements there is a cost attached which would need to be underwritten by a local organisation with sufficient financial resources. The Youth Club Management Committee does not have the resources to contract Horsham Matters at a cost of around £10,000 per year. The Parish Council was approached in January this year to see if they were interested in pursuing this option. Although very supportive of the Youth Club which they helped to initiate 5 years ago, the Council did not feel that it could commit to that level of expenditure at the current time due to other commitments.

This means that with no other options on the table, the Youth Club has to close. The Management Committee are stepping down and the Club's assets (some funding & equipment) will be held by the Parish Council. These assets can be made available to anyone wishing to pursue youth activities in the Parish (it does not have to be a youth club) and contact should be made with the Parish Council if you would like to discuss ideas further.

The outgoing Management Committee would like to thank all those people who have helped run the youth club over the last few years; staff, committee members and the young people themselves.

Mike King, Chairman, YCMC

Traffic Management Plan

Through the Neighbourhood Plan consultations, you highlighted your concerns regarding speeding and parking in the village. With the proposed new housing in the village, the Parish Council will be entitled to receive some Community Infrastructure Levy Funding which can be used for traffic improvements. The Parish Council has now established a working group which is looking at your concerns and working closely with WSCC to identify possible solutions to improve the situation. It is early days but we'll keep you posted as plans progress.

SID has arrived ! Please reduce your speed

A Speed Indicator Device has been loaned for a short time by WSCC to remind all drivers of the speed limits. Please do not ignore. If we all try to keep our speed down through the village, it will force those just passing through and not caring about our village to slow down! It will be moved to different locations and the effectiveness monitored to help inform our Traffic Management Plan. Feedback welcomed.

Gatwick Update by Parish Councillor, Peter Drummond

Since the autumn there has been much activity and 2016 will prove interesting; some good, some bad, some frustrating. This is a summary to date – my full report can be found on the village website along with a link to the Arrivals Review Report.

2nd RUNWAY: Sir Howard Davies's Airport Commission's report was unequivocal that the new runway for London and the South-East be located at Heathrow. The Government originally said that a decision would be taken before Christmas, later the Secretary of State for Transport let it be known that the Davies report was, in effect, an advisory document and reopened the matter. The Government decision was due to be announced this summer but has now been further postponed. We will continue to monitor and lobby wherever we can; West Sussex does not need Gatwick to have a second runway with all the attendant, very real, downsides.

ARRIVALS REVIEW: When I last reported, the Gatwick Airport Independent Arrivals Review had recently been established. The team set about seeking the opinions of every organisation with a stake in noise issues at Gatwick. Their report is comprehensive, comprehensible and offers hope. The report sets out that more could be done to meet the concerns.

The Review's findings that affect Wisborough Green

Airbus A320 : Whilst new aircraft of this type do not whine, airlines, specifically easyJet, had moved from no plans to modify their existing fleet to accepting that they would have to. easyJet and British Airways have said that hopefully by June 2016 the planes will not emit a whine. The Review team has recommended that Gatwick should set a 'sunset' date of 31st December 2017 for unmodified aircraft using the airfield with an immediate financial penalty for those that do.

Routing to the Instrument Landing System (ILS): In 2013 the minimum distance from the airfield at which aircraft joined the ILS (in effect, the straight flight route on which aircraft make their final approach) was moved 2Nm to the west, to 10Nm from the runway; the effect on Wisborough Green and the Parishes to our north and north-west was that arriving aircraft were more concentrated overhead as their flight paths were being squeezed into a narrower swathe. All protest groups had signed up to a doctrine of 'fair and equitable' dispersal of arriving aircraft. The Arrivals Review has recommended that the swathe at which arriving aircraft join the ILS will be widened to between 8Nm and 14Nm from Gatwick. If this proposal is adopted and put into practice it will not reduce the number of aircraft landing from the west but it should reduce the concentration flying directly overhead.

Continuous Descent Approach (CDA): This is a technique that aims to keep arriving aircraft as high as possible for as long as possible, 'low power, low drag' to reduce noise. Whilst arriving aircraft are already required by CAA and Gatwick to use the technique whenever possible, the standard to meet is quite low and, for instance, the powered turns over Wisborough Green are, bizarrely, CDA compliant. The Review Team has identified some additional measures to improve the noise impact of CDA:

- That as soon as possible, the altitude for commencement of CDA at Gatwick should be increased from 600 to 7000 feet.
- That Gatwick collaborates with NATS, CAA and airlines within 12 months to agree incremental improvements to the application of CDA procedures.
- That Gatwick work with NATS and CAA to raise the Gatwick CDA commencement altitude to 8000 feet when feasible.
- That the Gatwick holding areas should be higher, or should be relocated to enable holding aircraft to dwell over water, rather than over Sussex.

Noise Complaints Procedure: An overhaul of Gatwick's complaints policy and procedures to try and restore some trust in the system.

Noise Management Board: The review has proposed the establishment of a Board for Gatwick by Summer 2016 to be operated under independent chairmanship and comprising representatives from each of the institutions able to effect change for Gatwick arrivals, the Chair of the Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) and both elected council members and residents' representatives.

Landing Direction: This is potentially bad news for WG. The prevailing winds (around 70%) are generally from the west and aircraft land and take-off into the wind, therefore most of the arriving aircraft, which create more noise disturbance on the ground than departing ones, arrive from the east. The Arrivals Review has recommended the development of a new protocol so that when there is little or no wind, generally in the evening or at night, arrivals are switched to our side of the airfield. Whilst this is not ideal, to fight it would not be in accord with the widely accepted principle of 'fair and equitable' dispersal.

Summary: There are many more matters covered within the report but these are the ones most affecting us. How the report is received and acted upon by all is critical but the Reviews final two recommendations are;

- That Gatwick should publish, not later than 31st March, a description of the steps that it is intending to take in response to the arrivals report and which, if any, of the recommendations it plans to pursue.
- In the interests of improved community relations, that Gatwick publish not later than 31st January 2017 a report of overall progress towards delivery, of the steps recommended in the report, including relevant status updates from CAA and NATS with, where appropriate, the basis for any related decisions.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS: Moves are afoot to improve the quality and nature of our representation so that the issues specific to our area are properly heard.

Following the public uproar over the recent changes we have experienced, the CAA commissioned an independent review of its airspace change decision-making process, including consultation. The subsequent report identifies room for improvement and coupled with the Judicial Review brought against them by Gatwick Obviously Not (which is currently pending the CAA response to the Arrivals Review report) the CAA should be more prepared to listen and engage.

We will continue to lobby against a second runway and press for an equivalent review of departures.