



WISBOROUGH GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

Village News

(Not part of the Church since 1894)

Issue: 45

August 2023

Chairman's Message

Parish Councils are the first rung on the governance ladder with remarkably little, actual, power and yet operating at the coalface of voter/villager engagement and held accountable for much of what happens in the immediate environment; in our case the village and surrounding areas. A councillor's role is both rewarding and frustrating.

Whether it be parking, the PC tries to stay on top of this but ultimately has little power of enforcement; the Green, the hardest working turf in West Sussex and requiring regular maintenance and improvement to keep it ready for cricket, football, the Village Fête, RunWisborough etc., etc.; the public loos, we are fortunate to retain these; emergency plans, what happens during electricity blackouts or water outages; planning, into most aspects of which the PC has input but no decisive power, the PC is a jack of many trades and has to do its level best to be master of the ones that matter.

You will have received the PC's Annual Report (tip: it was circulated with the May Ad Vincula) and I do hope that you gave it a read. You will have noticed that the PC election was uncontested (saving the village about £3k), 8 councillors have kindly agreed to stand for another term and we welcome one new Councillor, Mark Ogden-Meade who comes with a welter of energy and experience. At the first meeting of the year, in May, I was re-elected Chairman and Sophie Winship as Vice. Wisborough Green PC is actually a good group who not only get on well but bring a variety of different skills and passions to the team – the village benefits as a result.

At the same time as the PC election there were District Council elections; Gareth Evans was re-elected – a 'good thing' as he has grown into the role becoming an effective District Councillor and Charles Todhunter whose experience as a Parish Councillor in Loxwood means he understands Parish Council challenges. When required they are both taking up cudgels on behalf of WG.

If you ever doubt why WG is the wonderful place to live in that it is, look no further than what has been going on the Green since the last PC newsletter: the fabulous Coronation weekend, then RunWisborough and the School Fete. These were fab-u-lous village events and as a result of phenomenal work by volunteers.

Which brings me to my repeated call: the village needs more volunteers. I refer to the Chinese saying: 'many hands make light work'; if you would volunteer for just one thing that would share and lighten the load, please think about it. The August Bank Holiday Monday Fête is coming up, we look forward to seeing you there; however, it needs organisers and helpers. Please help, it's these events and the village organisations that foster the community spirit that makes Wisborough Green what it is.

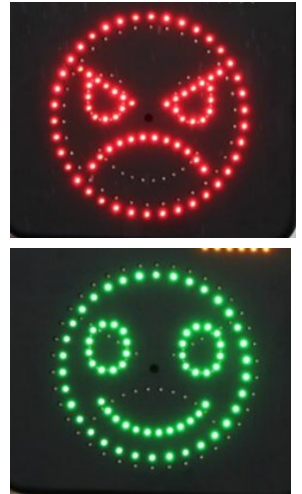
Peter Drummond, Chairman

It was no joke

In the early hours of 1st April our Speed Indicator Device (SID) was stolen from Newpound Lane. Quite why Wisborough Green was targeted is anybody's guess as, in the UK, thefts of SIDs are extremely rare with only a handful ever being reported across the country.

However, we will not be thwarted and have worked closely with the Police to ensure the replacement is as well protected as possible. He, Sid, is currently located outside the entrance of Great Meadow recording valuable data from vehicles; clearly showing vehicle speed and hopefully a thankful smiley face for those within the speed limit. Like his predecessor, he will move around the village to different locations every few weeks.

Smiley faces all round for Sid.



The west road - NO access or parking

Residents of the west road, leading to the Pavilion, have recently brought to the PC's attention that many more cars are being driven at speed and/or parked along the west road. Technically, and actually, this road is part of the Village Green and without an access Easement or PC consent, parking or driving on the road is in breach of the Byelaws. Access on this road is restricted to residents, pavilion staff and match officials. Private CCTV footage has highlighted what the problem is and the PC is evaluating ways to address and enforce this problem and options will be trialled over the coming months. See 'Byelaws' on page 6.

Important to report stolen number plates

We picked up on the village Facebook page recently that number plates had been stolen from cars in Butts Meadow/Carters Way. It was reported to Sussex Police at a recent meeting and we have been asked to publicise that these thefts should be reported to the police (via 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) for inclusion on a national database; stolen plates are used for further criminal activity. By way of an example, the Clerk's son was pulled over in Bournemouth by two police cars, a sniffer dog unit and a minibus of armed officers. All a bit alarming! Unbeknown to him, his plates had been used on a car in an armed robbery in the north.

Please just take one - 800 dog waste bags used in 3 weeks

The PC provide the dog waste bag dispenser to encourage residents and visitors to pick up on the occasion when they have forgotten or used up the bags brought with them. However, it seems that some people are using it as their sole supply. This was not the intention so please buy your own bags, bring them with you and keep the PC supply for emergency use.

CDC blows up 4 year's of work ... the saga continues

The Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Review (NP) continues. Although the PC acknowledges that it is beneficial for the district to have a Local Plan in place to guard against speculative development, for the recent Local Plan consultation the PC submitted a strong objection to the housing allocation for WG. Not only will it be a struggle to find development sites that will not impact upon the historic and rural landscape, but we have raised concerns about the lack of infrastructure to support these new homes. The PC has also requested to be involved in the examination to be conducted early 2024 and will be highlighting to the examiner the difficulties in completing the consultation, was this intentional!

It does mean that the WG NP remains stalled until the housing allocation has been confirmed. A huge amount of work has already been undertaken to inform the site selection process but it is likely that much of this work will need to be repeated. As you will understand, the NP Steering Group and PC are unhappy with the CDC's prevarication and ghosting since the process started in 2018. Then whole thing is frustrating beyond belief and yet essential to the village retaining as much control as it can over where development occurs. The PC is preparing a detailed complaint to the District Council which will be copied to our MP, Andrew Griffith, as the PC is of the opinion that CDC has acted reprehensibly.

Community Highways Scheme - Kirdford Rd footway

Through the NP consultations, the village told us that it would accept development on the Kirdford Road sites provided there was a pavement to serve them. The PC has discussed this with the potential developers who all accept that the provision is required. The source of the funding for the last section, which will connect these paths to the existing footpath/pavement network, on the Village Green, is unclear. The PC has applied to WSCC for a grant as a first step.

Cricket Club Practice Nets

The PC was alarmed by the large, galvanised cricket net structure that appeared on the Green without either prior notification or PC consent. Members of the Cricket Club attended a PC meeting to provide an explanation.

The PC is delighted to support cricket on the Green, particularly the Friday evening activity, however it was made clear that the Green is for everyone not just for sport and, as it is owned by the PC, permission is required... for everything. The PC agreed that the mobile nets could remain for this cricket season and from 1st May until the end of the first week in September each year, on the basis that after every use it is returned behind and secured to the Pavilion. For every failure in this regard the permitted time on the Green will be reduced by one week. During this winter the galvanised frame is to be painted green and the nets changed to soften their appearance.

We are delighted to see that the new recreation surface is being well used. Thanks to the WG Fete Society, a storage box for balls etc will shortly be installed. It is the intention to have this as a locked box with village residents knowing the lock number. More details will be published in due course.

You can now use litter bins for dog poo bags



IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO USE THIS BIN FOR
THE DISPOSAL OF DOG WASTE

Bags of dog waste can, and should now, be put into litter bins which are emptied by CDC weekly. CDC is phasing out 'dog waste only' bins and using general litter bins instead (the dog bins will be removed in due course) which will lower costs and mean that there are more available receptacles for dog poo. This reverses a 12-year-old CDC decision when WG was asked to install the dog waste bins. Some bins on the village green (away from benches) will be marked as dual purpose and we would be grateful if you could head to these.

The bins on Songhurst Meadow are now operational and will shortly be changed to larger bins. Please ensure that you pick up after your dog and use the bins.

I/we/the PC/most village residents are staggered as to why some people still refuse to pick up their dog's excrement; it's just unacceptable to expect others to accept this; whether around the village in general, on the village green or Songhurst Meadow **just pick it up**. It is lovely to see dogs enjoying themselves, running free on the Green or Songhurst Meadow and it would be a shame if keeping dogs on leads had to become a rule because of the selfish few. If you clearly see someone not cleaning up after their dog(s) please take a picture and email it to the Clerk.

For information:

The village is covered by a Public Space Protection Order which applies to all land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access within the administrative area of the Council (Chichester District), falling within the following descriptions (extract from Order relevant to WG):

- ◆ All adopted roads, highways and carriageways together with any adjoining footpaths, cycleways or verges constituting highway land.
- ◆ The entire width (including adjoining verges) of any footway, footpath, bridleway, cycleway or pedestrianised area to which the public have access.
- ◆ All public parks, pleasure grounds, sports grounds, recreation grounds, playing fields, village greens, cemeteries, churchyards or other open public spaces owned or maintained by any City, Parish or Town Council within the administrative area of Chichester District Council and which are not otherwise subject to a byelaw of the City, Parish or Town council excluding dogs from the use of such land.
- ◆ The communal footpaths and communal grassed areas within the ownership or control of Hyde Housing or any successor in title to it .

Offenders can be served with a Fixed Penalty Notice, having an opportunity to pay a fine rather than face prosecution. The penalty is £100, reduced to £75 if paid within 14 days.

If you know of a persistent offender please contact Louise, Parish Council Clerk, in confidence on clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org or telephone 01403 701102.

Our village trees need you - tree surveys

Some recent tree work flagged up a planning irregularity: there are several areas in the village that are covered by area Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) but it is apparent that only the trees that were present at the time of the Order being made are covered. Some of the Orders are over 50 years old and more self-seeded or planted trees have appeared in this time and are not covered.

With the demise of many ash trees, the oaks and other trees will have increased significance in the rural landscape. With support from CDC, the PC wish to undertake a review of the current TPOs for the village area, as well as individual trees. Undertaking the surveys will allow the TPOs to be updated and will identify other trees that are of significance in the landscape. So yet again there's a call out for help: review the TPO trees, mark on maps, review the health, identify new trees and take a few photos to help update the TPOs. If you can help, please contact Louise on 01403 701102 or email clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Replacement trees

It was sad that three village green horse chestnuts had to be removed from the Conservation Area recently, due to disease. It is a planning requirement that the trees are replaced in the Autumn so the Parish Council will be considering replacement species.

The horse chestnut is synonymous with Wisborough Green and a decision has been taken to retain horse chestnuts on the main green, planting the variety that has shown some resistance to the disease; however, in peripheral areas, different species will be planted to ensure that the replacements grow to maturity. Advice is being sought on suitable species.

We're pulling the chain to flush out a new agreement

Currently, the village has an arrangement with CDC over the public loos: the PC pays the cleaning costs and CDC pays the other costs associated with the building; insurance, utilities, maintenance etc. This agreement finishes in April 2024 and negotiations have just started to keep the facilities open. The PC believes that the facilities are hugely valuable for the village and that the current arrangement works well. We await further details from CDC and will keep you posted.



To show how appreciated they are, we have just received a £60 donation from a grateful Isle of Wight traveller who always stops in WG en route to his family.

Catch the allotment bug!

Allotment available from April 2024 - get on the waiting list

For more information, please call Louise on 701102 or email clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org



Byelaws - it's time to update

Is it news to you the Village Green is covered by Byelaws that govern its use? The Byelaws were confirmed on 23rd May 1969 and came into operation on 1st July 1969. Obviously, life and use has changed since 1969 and the PC is now looking to update these, both in terms of use and the fines that can be imposed (we are hoping for maximum £500). The formal process with the Department for Communities and Local Government is just starting, with the intention of having the same Byelaws for Songhurst Meadow. There will be an update when more is known.

In the meantime, can we please remind everyone that on the Village Green (which includes the Little Green, grass by the Cricketers and all the verges) and Songhurst Meadow: horses are not permitted, golf should not be played and use by hot air balloons (particularly a large red one) is banned without prior consent. Thank you.

Broadband

Unfortunately, there is nothing further to update on the Gigabit Scheme. We are still waiting to receive an update from WSCC and will pass on any information whenever it's available.

In the meantime, whilst not strictly on the subject of Gigabit, but nevertheless on the subject of access to Broadband, the BBC recently published an article about reduced social tariffs which are being promoted by Ofcom. We were unaware until we saw this article as, it appears, are more than half of low-income households in the UK. Social tariffs allow UK households receiving government benefits such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support to pay less for internet and telecoms access. If eligible, the cost could be reduced to between £10 and £20 a month. Check out the Ofcom website. (<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>)

Lick of paint



In the coming weeks, the fingerpost sign at the crossroads, in the village centre, and the two fingerpost signs in Fittleworth Road will be given a make-over.

The old telephone box which holds tourist information leaflets will be freshened up.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**MR TRICKETT'S FUN FAIR WILL BE ON
THE VILLAGE GREEN FOR ONE DAY
ONLY THIS YEAR**

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER



Help is on hand if you register

We all take turning a tap on for granted, we don't appreciate how lucky we are or how much water we use... until the tap runs dry. It was alarming for us all to recently find ourselves without water, and more so for those who have challenges, perhaps being elderly, suffering ill health, recently home from hospital, having a disability, young children or babies.

Utility providers hold lists of those considered to have any vulnerability, however slight, but it is up to you to register. In the event of a water outage, they will contact you and provide updates, and make further provisions if necessary. Most residents who had registered with Southern Water had bottled water delivered to their home. Look at your utility bills to find a telephone number or website and ensure that you register, if needed.

Think of others – cut back your pavement hedges

Can we please remind those whose who have a pavement outside their property that it is essential to keep hedges cut back to ensure that pedestrians are able to use pavements without having to push past vegetation, being caught by brambles and in the worst cases, being forced to walk in the road.

Making pedestrians, particularly young children, the elderly and disabled, to walk into the road due to overgrown hedges puts these people at risk. Please think of others and ensure that the access is kept clear and cut hedges back hard if needs be. The bird nesting season is coming to an end now (officially at the end of August) but check before you cut.

Public Rights of Way Routine Inspection - August 2023

Routine inspections will be undertaken shortly. Please report any issues either directly through the WSCC website:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/>

Or to the Parish Council.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS **In the Committee Room at the** **Village Hall, 7.45 pm on the** **following Tuesdays:**

19 September
17 October
21 November
No December meeting

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE **MEETINGS**

Please refer to the agendas displayed on the village noticeboards and website for information - a meeting will only be called to meet CDC deadlines. Meetings are held at 8.00 pm on a Tuesday in the Village Hall .

1 & 15 August, 5 September
3 October, 7 November
5 & 19 December

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 07976 253969

Communications
Finance Committee (Chairman)
Gatwick Airport
Local Council Associations
Planning Committee

Sophie Winship (Vice-Chair) T: 700783

Community Speed Watch Coordinator
Local Council Associations
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan

Lucy Bartley T: 700457

Neighbourhood Plan Review
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan
Winter Management Plan

Andy Burbridge T: 701902

Green Coordination Group
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Youth Activities

Andrew Jackson T: 700574

Finance Committee
Neighbourhood Plan Review
New Pavilion Project/Pavilion Trustee Liaison
Planning Committee (Chairman)

Mark Ogden-Meade T: 07774 904489

Neighbourhood Plan Review
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Winter Management Plan

Howard True T: 700150

Finance Committee
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan

Martin Watson T: 07836 700923

Communications
Finance Committee
Green Coordination Group
New Pavilion Project/Pavilion Trustee Liaison
Planning Committee

Tim Worrall T: 700100

Communications
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Winter Management Plan

Parish Council meeting minutes are
available on the village website
www.wisboroughgreen.org

How to contact your Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Louise Davies
Wisborough Green Parish Council
PO Box 255, Wisborough Green
Billingshurst, West Sussex
RH14 0WT

T: 01403 701102

E: clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Alternatively, letters can be posted
in the Parish Council letterbox at
the Village Hall.

Members can be contacted
directly by telephone or by email
through the Clerk.

**WISBOROUGH GREEN FETE
THE PLACE TO BE ON
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
28TH AUGUST FROM 1 PM**