



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Would you like to be involved in your community? Have you ever thought of becoming a parish councillor? If so then now is a great opportunity. We are looking to co-opt a new Councillor so if you are interested please contact the parish clerk, Sue Booth on 01903 812042 who will give you some more details of how.

In this edition of our council news you will read the annual reports of the Committee Chairman. These reports were prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting and will provide you with brief details of the hard work undertaken in the past year. In February, we strengthened our number and were pleased to welcome Philip Hoare as a member of the Council and look forward to working with him in the future. Those of you who attended the Annual Parish Meeting will I am sure have been delighted by the opportunity that we took to recognise officially the hard work of our junior wardens by presenting them all with certificates, which later featured in the local press. They were so well deserved.

One final piece of good news, last year we achieved status of Quality Council. As a consequence of this accreditation we have been awarded the sum of £925 from the Sussex Association of Local Councils as part of the Safer and Stronger Communities of the LAA (Local Authorities Association) reward grant. This money is to be used for the benefit of the community and we will be discussing ideas at our F&GP committee. As a councillor you could be part of that discussion, go on, give it some thought! Lastly, a big thank you to all the Councillors, staff and exhibitors who worked so hard to make our Showcase Day on 27th February such a success. In the end we had to turn away some organisations as we simply could not fit them all in. It seems a long time ago now but we have had many calls for it to be repeated!

Sue Rogers, Chairman

N.B At the Full Council meeting of 10th May it was decided to defer a decision on whether to change the name of Steyning Parish Council to Steyning Town Council until after June next year.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED SNOW & ICE

Would you be interested in becoming a keyholder for a grit/salt bin in your neighbourhood? Would you be interested in being trained in the optimum use and spreading of grit/salt in order to be able to pass this on to other residents in the event of adverse weather conditions such as those seen last winter? If you think you would like to help please contact Sue Booth/Hazel Roxby at spcclerk@btconnect.com or on 01903 812042.

GRIT BIN SPONSORS

Calling all businesses in Steyning. Would you be interested in sponsoring a grit/salt bin in the Town and surrounding area? This is an excellent opportunity to advertise your business. The cost of a bin plus installation would be in the region of £250-£350 – maybe you could share the cost with another business? The Parish Council would like to hear from you please contact Sue Booth/Hazel Roxby on spcclerk@btconnect.com or 01903 812042.

BLOOD DONORS

The next blood donors sessions to be held at The Steyning Centre, Fletcher's Croft will be on: Wednesday 4th August, sessions are from 2.00 – 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 – 8.00 p.m.

STREET LIGHTS

West Sussex County Council maintains all streetlights in Steyning. To report a fault dial 0845 7581622. It is useful if you have to hand the number of the light in question. Alternatively, the Parish Office will pass on your request, their number is 01903 812042

BECOME A COUNCILLOR - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Becoming a Councillor is one of the most rewarding roles in the community. The role of Councillor is one of representative, listener, decision-taker and team member. Councillors contribute to the work of the Council by:

- Having a say about the things they care about
- Putting forward ideas for better services
- Responding to the needs and views of the residents
- Seeking the best outcome to local issues
- Getting involved in decision making

If you think you could be interested in becoming a Councillor please come in and talk to me.

*Sue Booth, Clerk to the Council 01903 812042:
spcclerk@btconnect.com*

The Neighbourhood Wardens can be contacted on 07734 387888 (Paul) and 07734 387889 (Carol), 01903 813236 (Office). Please note they are not an emergency service and in an emergency always dial 999. PCSO Charlie Whittaker and the Police can also be contacted on the non-emergency number below. It is important to ring the Police on this number and report all incidents, even if they appear trivial, it is only in this way that a proper record of incidents, crime and anti-social behaviour can be maintained for the District.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE WARDENS ARE NOT THE POLICE, IF YOU ARE AWARE OR INVOLVED IN ANY INCIDENT FOR WHICH YOU WOULD NORMALLY CONTACT THE POLICE THEN PLEASE DO SO BY EITHER USING THE NON URGENT 0845 60 70 999 OR IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY 999

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES & MEMBERS 2010/11

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL: SUE ROGERS
VICE-CHAIRMAN: SHELLEY MARKS-THOMSON

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman: David Herson **Vice-Chairman:** Vacant **Members:** Sue Rogers, Shelley Marks-Thomson, Paul Devlin, Gordon Marshall, Gill Ness-Collins, Martin Toomey, Jackie Campbell, David Barling

HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Sue Rogers **Vice Chairman:** Jackie Campbell **Members:** Shelley Marks-Thomson, Mariella Alexander, David Herson, Marlene Carman, Tim Lloyd, David Barling, Philip Hoare

PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Gill Ness-Collins **Vice Chairman:** Vacant **Members:** Sue Rogers, Shelley Marks-Thomson, Marlene Carman, Roger Toms, Philip Hoare

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Paul Devlin **Vice Chairman:** Martin Toomey **Members:** Sue Rogers, Shelley Marks-Thomson, Mariella Alexander, Marlene Carman, David Barling.

STEYNING CENTRE COMMITTEE - Report by Cllr. Marshall

Another year has passed by since our last report and I am very pleased to say that 2009 has been a good year for your Centre. Our objectives for the year were many and varied, the main ones being:- Advertising is always important especially for a Centre such as ours, and therefore the Committee under the guidance of Cllr Lloyd will introduce very shortly a website for the Centre. It is necessary annually to review the conditions of hire and booking for the Centre, this has resulted in a 3% increase to the charges to the Centre booking. The review has also upgraded the conditions of hire for the Centre and a much more positive deposit system and clarification of booking payments over £100 has been agreed, and also settlement eight weeks prior to the use of the Centre, has also been approved. Energy used within the Centre has risen like all heating systems and this has become a concern to the Committee. The heating system in the Centre has therefore been serviced, upgraded parts changes and thermostats lowered, resulting in a reduction of the gas consumption. Perhaps next year we will investigate installing a new more modern boiler? Again a considerable reduction to the Centre's carbon footprint.

An eighteen Solar Cell Array has finally, after much heartache, been installed onto the roof of the Centre, and they have now started to feed the Centre with free electricity and at the same time reducing the centre's carbon footprint by approximately 15%, Fantastic!! The system should provide approximately £700 per year as a payback to the Centre at no cost to the Council as the total cost was paid for by grants. We hope to enlarge the system at a later date, if it proves to be very successful. After discussions the Committee agreed that the vision statement for the Steyning Centre management committee for 2010 should reflect:-

Wish to retain

Free car parking
More room facilities
More maintenance for the Centre

Wish list for the future.

Website
Carbon neutral
Increase maximum bookings
Extension of facility

PLANNING COMMITTEE - Report by Cllr Devlin

The planning committee consists of seven Councillors who meet twice per month. Our role is to consider all planning applications, which are sent to us by HDC and in some cases West Sussex County Council. In addition we consider strategic planning matters such as the creation and administration of the South Downs National Park.

During the past year I have attended and spoken at a planning appeal relating to Penns Court, a planning meeting of West Sussex County Council concerning the extension to the boarding house of the Grammar school and attended several meetings and forums relating to the South Downs National Park. Planning applications for Steyning & Bramber can be viewed by the public at the Steyning Centre during normal office hours, excluding Friday afternoon. We understand that the creation of hard copies of applications by HDC is to cease and HDC are planning to provide a lap top computer, which will be available at the office for the viewing of plans. During the planning meeting the plans will be projected onto a screen. These meetings are now on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The significant development in the town is the creation of the £4.5 m Grammar School boarding house and dining room which is due for completion in January next year.

Regarding the National Park, we are now aware that the decision has been made that some outlying parts of the Parish will be within this but the major parts of the town will be outside of the park. The precise boundary of the park was confirmed, by the Secretary of State last November and in December the announcement was made as to the size and composition of the Park Authority. In January this year the Park was established as a legal entity by Parliament. A National Park establishment team is in place with an office in Midhurst. Their role is to consult with local people and organisations, raise grant funding where appropriate and help shape the Park Authority's priorities. The names of the Park Authority members was announced last month, consisting of 14 nominated Councillors from local authorities covering the park, 6 Parish Councillors and 7 Government appointed members. Parish Councils in each of the 3 counties were given the opportunity to vote for 2 Parish Representatives.

On April 1st The South Downs National Park Authority is created as a "shadow" authority, not yet operational and in March next year the existing authority The South Downs Joint Committee winds up and the new Authority becomes fully operational and takes on statutory planning responsibilities.

HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Rogers

Our roads and car parks continue to create a high workload for the committee and 2009/10 continues to be a busy year. Working with the Steyning Partnership, good progress is being made towards expansion of Newmans Gardens Car Park and we expect work to start in the second quarter of this year. Further plans are being made to improve the general appearance of the car park and re-site the ugly recycling bins from the entrance to the High Street.

In the early part of last year we carefully explored the feasibility of introducing a 20mph zone through the Town and whilst this was well supported by many residents it did not meet WSCC criteria. Whilst this will not proceed per se we have created a traffic calming sub committee who are engaged in examining various speeding hot spots through the Town.

Snow and Ice this year have brought their own challenges and emergency plans that were drawn up by the Parish

Council on the first day of the severe weather were thwarted by the Government who took control of all stocks of salt and grit. A further sub committee are now investigating longer term more robust plans for future weather events.

On a positive note the Committee was pleased to see the pedestrian crossing finally completed across the Bramber Road. This project was supported by the Parish Council and we would like to acknowledge the hard work of Councillor Derek Deedman for his efforts in seeing this through.

This report really only provides a snapshot of that many items and projects this committee have addressed, not to mention the creation of a vision statement, part of which you may of read in the latest edition of Your Steyning. My thanks to all members of the Committee for their hard work throughout the past 12 months.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The CAB is now operating its outreach service at The Steyning Centre once every 4 weeks. It is held on a Wednesday from 10am to 1pm. Please note that an appointment system operates and appointments can now only be made by phoning the CAB Helpline on 0844 477 1171.

CIVIC AMENITY SERVICE

This service will be in the Fletchers Croft car park on: Saturdays 12th & 26th June, 10th & 24th July and 7th & 21st August. The Landfill Waste service will be in the car park on 17th July.

DOG BINS

Dog faeces can now be placed in either your household rubbish bin or any normal litter bin. We do ask that you DOUBLE BAG/WRAP the package before disposing of it in this way!! You can, of course, continue to use the usual dog bins. Please report any overflowing dog bins to HDC on 01403 733144.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Herson

As the name indicates, F&GP is the Committee that controls the Council Finances but it also deals with any items of Council business that do not naturally fall into the remit of any of the other Committees. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 6 days prior to the corresponding full Council meeting. Following the resignation of Phil Hampson, I was appointed as Chair of this Committee in May 2009. F&GP manages by far the largest share of the Council's budget which includes all our administration costs such as salaries and wages, ICT and printing, grants to community organisations, professional fees and training. It also includes our substantial commitments to the Neighbourhood Wardens scheme and the Swimming Pool.

Now for a few details:

In 2009/2010 the budget allocated to administering the Council's affairs was just over £79,000 – a small reduction on the figure for 2008/09. The actual cost of the Wardens and Swimming Pool contributions were almost £44,000 giving a total F&GP budget of £123,000. Our Precept for 2009/2010 was just under £149,500 – thus F&GP accounted for approximately 82% of the Council's expenditure.

For 2010/11, we aim to keep the cost of administration to the minimum possible but, regrettably, there will still need to be a 3% increase in the Precept to £154,000; mainly to cover anticipated increases in our fixed costs. Because of a slight reduction in the number of properties paying Council Tax, this will unfortunately show as a 3.9% increase in the Parish Council's element of your total Council Tax bill. Nonetheless, this increase amounts to just 4p/week for a band D or 6p/week for a band F taxpayer!

We continually strive to make savings wherever we can especially in the use of IT and utilities and will do whatever we can to support the 10:10 campaign during the coming financial year. We have also been successful in getting financial support from some of our adjoining Councils towards our long-term commitment to supporting the Swimming Pool.

During this year we decided to change the method of distributing Parish Council News and hopefully you will have all seen and read the distinctive quarterly insert in "Your Steyning." This comes at a small cost but we hope that the information will now reach all residents in a timely fashion. Also during the year we have awarded over £2000 in grants including the Chamber of Trade's reusable bag campaign as well as Steyning in Bloom. Lastly, the Parish Council is actively represented on a number of outside bodies including the Local Action Team, Leisure Centre Management Committee, Joint Burial Board, Horsham Association of Local Councils, West Sussex Waste Management and more. Thus, in a small way, we are able to influence developments throughout both the District and the County for the benefit of the residents of Steyning. This report can only provide an overview of the work of F&GP. Please see our monthly meeting Minutes or attend one of our monthly meetings to find out more.

PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Ness-Collins

The committee has met regularly during the past year. There have been several changes of personnel during the past year. We now number seven members. During our meetings we have dealt with the regular business of the committee. We have a good working relationship with the Allotments Association. At this point I should comment that their bid for a Lottery grant is progressing.

Regular monitoring of all the open spaces is carried out by committee members. We have had close contact with the Tennis Club and after discussion we agreed to support their application for planning permission for a third Tennis court. I am glad to say their application has been approved and they can now go ahead with their plans.

We have been very fortunate to get a grant of £45,000 from Play England under their Playbuilder scheme. This will enable us to replace some of our existing old equipment, buy new equipment, improve the safety surfaces, and amalgamate the play areas on the Memorial Field. We met with the School Council at St Andrews Primary School and we showed them the provisional sketches and the kind of equipment available. We listened to their views, and took note of what they wanted. This was a most interesting and useful meeting. We will shortly meet with two contractors who have been asked to submit a bid for this work. At present we are looking at the old Basketball court at the end of Normans Way. We are in process of consulting the residents to see how best we could develop/improve the court and the nearby grass area, possibly to include a community garden.

MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES: 8th June*, 6th July*, 3rd August*, 7th September*

PARISH COUNCIL: 14th June, 12th July, 13th September (no meeting August)

HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING: 20th July*, 24th August, 28th September

PLAYING FIELDS: 22nd June*, 27th July, 31st August

STEYNING CENTRE: 29th June, 17th August*, 21st September*

*Planning meeting will be at 7.00 p.m. on these dates.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all the above meetings which are held at The Steyning Centre. Meetings are at 7.30pm with the exception of Planning marked *. All meeting agendas are displayed on the Public Notice Board at the High Street car park. The Parish Council can be contacted at: The Steyning Centre, Fletcher's Croft, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3XZ. Tel: 01903 812042. Email: spcclerk@btconnect.com or steyningcentre@btconnect.com

Steyning Parish Council 09/10

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended : 31st March 2010

31st March 2009

31st March 2010

Income Summary

144,212	Precept Received	149,351
3,475	Bank Interest Received	1,338
147,687	Sub Total	150,689

Operating Income

8,702	Administration	1,627
0	Fin & Gen Purposes Appendix	20
14,090	Highways and Lighting	14,678
8,523	Playing Fields & Allotments	9,313
61,648	Steyning Centre	66,041
0	Ear Marked Res Playingfield	0
0	Ear Marked Res Highways	0
0	Earmarked Res F & GP	0
0	Ear Marked Res Steyning Ctre	13,950
240,650	Total Income	256,318

Running Costs

79,607	Administration	77,879
41,180	Fin & Gen Purposes Appendix	44,521
14,347	Highways and Lighting	15,391
8,421	Public Toilets	11,581
21,671	Playing Fields & Allotments	20,297
70,886	Steyning Centre	68,979
1,110	Ear Marked Res Playingfield	0
3,410	Ear Marked Res Highways	6,570
145	Earmarked Res F & GP	0
0	Ear Marked Res Steyning Ctre	24,967
0	Steyning in Bloom	0
240,778	Total Expenditure	270,184

General Fund Analysis

22,838	Opening Balance	27,375
240,650	Plus : Income for Year	256,318
263,488		283,693
240,778	Less : Expenditure for Year	270,184
22,710		13,509
-4,665	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	-17,587
27,375	Closing Balance	31,096

ASHURST NEWS

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Thursday 13th May and 1st July. Meetings start at 8pm at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please find below the Chairman's Report which was given at the Annual Parish meeting on 1st April 2010. At the last Annual Parish Meeting it was proposed that a spring clean be carried out on Sunday 19th April. We are pleased to inform that a small number of people turned up and 10 sacks of rubbish were removed.

The Ashurst Recreation Ground, which is owned by the Charity Commission and managed by the Parish Council as the sole trustee, has had a very quiet year. Jon Hutcheon has been dealing with the rabbits and moles again recently. We have also received help with the rabbits via a residents contact, for which we are very grateful. The Football Club have informed that there is only more game to play this season, which they hope to play at Partridge Green. A cheque has been received for the games that have been played this season. Horsham District Council has informed that a TPO has been placed on the Oak tree at the entrance to the recreation ground. It was noted at the recreation ground AGM a number of items that need repairing or sorting out with contractors, these items are all in hand and will be reported on at the Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

The annual precept for 2010/11 has been set at £4,600.00. This includes £1000.00 grant for the Village Hall Trust for the New Village Hall. The other main costs to the Council are the recreation ground grant and Administration. The Steyning Area Mini Bus Association were given a grant for £150.00 and Sussex Air Ambulance were given £50.00. The total income for the year 09/10 was £3,571.31 and the expenditure was £4,162.37. A summary of receipts and payments for the year ending 31st March 2010 can be viewed once the Internal Audit has been carried out in May.

The Parish Council receive copies of all planning applications for Ashurst and are able to give their comments to Horsham District Council. However Horsham District Council does have the final decision. Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and have their say on any planning applications. It is now possible to view applications and also leave comments on line at [HYPERLINK "http://www.horsham.gov.uk"](http://www.horsham.gov.uk) www.horsham.gov.uk. Horsham District Council is at present trying to reduce the amount of paper plans that they receive and in-turn send out to parishes.

A trial for E Consultation (plans sent by email and downloaded from the computer) has just been carried out with 3 parishes and the results should be available by the end of April.

West Sussex Council have carried out some work on the ditches on the B2135 coming into Ashurst (from Steyning). It has been reported to have made some improvement to the flooding of the road.

The Chairman thanked George Cockman and Len Warner our District Councillors and Derek Deedman our County Councillor for their help and support in Ashurst issues over the year.

The Parish Councillors were thanked for their work and support during the year and most importantly thanks to Hazel, without whom the Parish Council wouldn't run at all. Details of all Parish Councillors and the Clerk are permanently posted on the Parish Council Notice Board.

NEWS FROM BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL

The Bramber Plan can now be viewed on a central database of community plans provided by Action in Rural Sussex. As progress is made against each action the entry will be updated to keep communities informed. The website is www.clp-se.org.uk, and just search for 'Bramber'.