HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019/20

Parish Councillors:

(Please contact through the Parish Office)

Stephen Hand (Chairman)
Michael Avery
Allan Brown
David Evans
Seth Jee
Peter Griffiths
Rodney Jackson
Tony Lank
Malcolm Llewellyn
John Lowman
Martin Machan
Claire Majsai
Duncan Ranger
Bob Sampson
Julia Shorrocks

Mid Sussex District Councillors:

Alison Bennett
Rodney Jackson
Colin Trumble

West Sussex County Councillor:

Joy Dennis

PARISH OFFICE:

Clerk to the Council – Sarah Groom
Facilities Manager – Nick Sinclair
Assistant Clerk – Helen Valler
Assistant Clerk – Lorna Cooksey
Cemetery Manager – Richard Lechmere
Maintenance Officer – Hamish Raby

COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings are at 8.00 pm at the Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, unless otherwise stated. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

COUNCIL:

26 March 2020
23 April 2020

COMMITTEES:

Planning & Environment:

19 March 2020
16 April 2020

Finance & Governance:

12 March 2020
9 April 2020

Estate & Facilities:

5 March 2020
2 April 2020

Annual Parish Meeting:
19 May 2020
To be held at Court Bushes Community Hub, Willow Way

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Village Centre, Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint, WEST SUSSEX BN6 9UY
Tel: 01273 833264
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
website www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk

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Website:

Please go to our website for the Council's published information and latest updates:
www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council

@hurst_pc

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NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019/20

News & Updates

New Year's Day Walk

Around 45 residents of all ages (and some canine friends!) enjoyed a muddy walkabout around Hurst Meadows on New Year's Day. Hearing the unmistakable sound of woodpeckers as we set off was a real highlight. This pair was later spotted in a tree at the bottom of Edgerley Meadow. Martin Saddler met us at the community orchard to talk about the many varieties of old Sussex apples trees that have been planted with more to be planted this year. Some of these trees could live for more than 150 years – good news for bees and insects and those of us who enjoy a nice apple crumble!

Look out for our Apple Blossom Walk on Sunday 10th May at 10:30am.

Court Bushes Community Hub

Court Bushes Community Hub continues to be a well-used facility in Hurstpierpoint, and we would welcome anyone to come down and have a look at the building, classes and groups that are held there.

Over the last few weeks we have installed curtains and blinds throughout, acoustic panelling and external lighting leading towards the building. Each week at Court Bushes the Melting Pot Café is run on a Wednesday and Friday 10am-2:30pm. It is a great place for friends, families and individuals to meet who would like a safe and inviting place to have a drink or something to eat. Kiddie Capers Nursery is open Monday to Friday and has a designated area including kitchen facilities and outside space. There are also regular classes including Kung Fu, Baby Massage, Memory Moments Café, Dad La Soul, Hurst Festival Music Club, Kiddie Capers Sensory Play, U3A recorder club and Muma & baby wellbeing.

For more information on specific groups or to book the facilities please contact the Parish Council office on 01273 833264.

Community Engagement Grants 2019/2020

Each financial year the Community Engagement Committee award grants to local groups and charities. The Parish Council grant system aims to help the Parish's voluntary groups to improve their effectiveness in providing services needed by the Parish's residents. Decisions on grants awarded are informed by the Parish Council's Action Plan and we particularly aim to support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.
This financial year we have supported the following groups and charities:
Know Dementia – Memory Moments café £500, Cancervive - £600, Older People Tea Parties - £180, Hurstpierpoint Players £500, Sayers Common Village Society £1000, St Catherine's Hospice £500, Sussex Clubs for Young People £500 and Knit 'n' Natter £220.

Grants awarded in 2020/21 will be in the range of £50 - £500 in order to support a wider range of initiatives. For more information regarding grants please visit www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk

New website coming soon…

This year we will be working on a new and improved website for the Parish Council and we need your help…

Are you a budding photographer?
Do you enjoy taking photos of Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common and would like to share them?

We would like our new website to feature all the aspects of the two villages that we enjoy daily and show everyone how beautiful, vibrant and welcoming our community is.

Images could include Hurst Meadows, the High Street, Millenium Gardens, Village Garden, Hurst College, Holy Trinity Church, Danny House, Sayers Common or any other key features you think are important to show from our community.

If you would like to be involved all images will need to be sent to the Parish Council office in either a jpeg or tiff file to: Lorna.cooksey@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

The images will not be used for anything other than the website. By submitting the images to the Parish Office, you give us permission to use them for this purpose.

Hurst Meadow Update

Tree planting in Hovel Field

We are pleased to confirm that fifty-seven new trees have been planted in Hovel Field immediately to the south of Bramble Park. A further eighteen self-seeded saplings, which were crowding each other, were transplanted across the field and the neighbouring field to give them more space.
This planting fulfils the planning condition to plant a screening belt of trees to the south of the new Bramble Park development, the responsibility of which fell to the Parish Council when the land was transferred in January 2018.
Tree planting across the whole field, rather than just a belt, will connect the ancient woodland in Wilderness Wood to the hedgerows in Hurst Meadows, creating a wider corridor for wildlife. All the planted trees were locally sourced and by relocating the saplings, natural regeneration although tweaked, retains the trees of local provenance that are already happy to grow here.

Please don't leave it. Bag it and bin it.

We would like to stress the importance of picking up dog waste on Hurst Meadows and putting it in the bins provided.
Wildflowers and plants need low nutrient soil to thrive. Soil enriched with dog faeces encourages the growth of thistles and docks and we are trying to reduce these species as they out compete many other wildflowers.
Dog waste is unpleasant and potentially dangerous to other visitors and can take a long time to biodegrade. Dog faeces can cause human diseases (such as canine toxocariasis) and so leaving it potentially puts children and other visitors at risk.
If you do bag up your dog waste, thank you, please remember to put it in the bin.
We would love the Meadows to evolve into a place full of wildlife for the whole village to enjoy. Please join us in this vision and help us to achieve it by bagging and binning it. Thank you.

Budget and Council Tax for 2020/21

The Parish Council has reviewed and agreed its budget for the new financial year. We do not receive any grants from central government, Mid Sussex District Council or West Sussex County Council for our day to day operations. Income is either self-generated or raised through Council Tax.

We have increased the Parish Council element of the Council Tax by 19p per week for a typical household. This increase will enable us to continue to deliver and improve upon the wide range of services provided to residents.

The total cost of all the Parish Council's services is now £1.57 per week for a typical household.

Staffing: ***We are pleased to announce that the new Parish Clerk Sarah Groom started on the 19th February. Sarah comes with a wealth of experience, drive and passion and we look forward to welcoming her to the team. We would also like to thank Andy Beams for his hard work during his time with us as Interim Clerk. His advice and support has been appreciated by all.***

Annual Parish Meeting:
7.30pm Tuesday 19th May 2020
Court Bushes Community Hub, Willow Way

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting which is a great opportunity for all residents in the Parish to come and meet their Councillors. Residents are given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters of local interest.

Key topics for discussions include: Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurst Meadows and Community Issues

AGENDA

1. Introduction by the Chairman
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2019
3. Annual Report of the Council
4. Financial Report of the Council
5. Discussion topics and open forum for the public
6. Closing remarks by the Chairman

Fraud Prevention Talk; On Monday 3rd February a Fraud Prevention talk was held in the Village Centre. The talk was well attended by 36 residents. Police Officer Allan Philips gave strategies on how to protect yourself from fraud and the varying degrees of fraud that can now affect everyone day to day. If you are interested in attending future talks please contact the Parish office to leave your details.

South Avenue Cemetery

We are pleased to inform you that in January work was carried out to fix the cemetery wall. This was a very difficult job as vulnerable gravestones had to be protected. We would like to thank the neighbouring resident for his cooperation and patience while the work was completed.
A recent memorial safety audit has identified nine memorials as unstable and hence posing a risk to anybody who could be walking or working nearby.
The nine memorials have been identified with hazard tape.
Anyone having a family memorial in South Avenue Cemetery is asked to check whether it has been identified as unstable and if so, take appropriate remedial action.
There will be a review in June 2020 and any memorials that are still unstable will be laid flat.

Village Centre

At the Village Centre we now have a defibrillator positioned outside by the main entrance for use in case of an emergency. To access the defibrillator 999 must be called and a code will be given by the ambulance services. The Parish Council offered free training in February to the main users of the Village Centre including library staff, pre-school and gymnastic club. The lights in the main hall in the Village Centre have now all been completely replaced, and this has made a noticeable difference to the look and feel of the space.

Are you looking to hire a room for a party, meeting, event or class?

The Village Centre and Court Bushes Community Hub have several different rooms to hire Monday to Sunday. For more information about the facilities and hire rates please contact the Parish Council office on 01273 833264, office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk or visit our website www.hurstpierpointvillagehalls.org.uk

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For all up to date information please follow & like our Facebook page: Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council