

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boars Head and surrounding areas

The Parish

The large Rotherfield Civil Parish area stretches from Eridge across to Mark Cross down to Argos Hill westwards to Burnt Oak up to Jarvis Brook around the eastern side of Crowborough to Steel Cross and back up to Eridge.

The main communities are Rotherfield, Mark Cross and Town Row. These, with the scattered settlements and dwellings in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, have between them around 2500 electors.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council represents these electors at local level and has powers and duties set by law. It has a small proportion of everybody's Council Tax to spend and in 2009/10 the precept is £49500. District services such as refuse collection, housing, and planning are the responsibility of Wealden District Council. Transport, highways, education and other major services are provided by East Sussex County Council. However, the Parish Council is consulted on most of these issues and can lobby for action where it does not have its own powers.

The Parish Council has 13 councillors (10 in Rotherfield Ward and 3 in Eridge & Mark Cross Ward) plus one employee - the Clerk. The full Parish Council meets monthly on the last Thursday of every month - usually in Rotherfield Village Hall but from time to time in Mark Cross and in Eridge. This meeting receives reports of meetings by committees, approves expenditure and discusses major items that require attention.

There is a committee structure in place and currently committees work on items connected with Planning & Building, Recreation & Burial Grounds, Highways & Lighting & Transportation, and Finance & General Purposes. Sub-committees are formed as needed.

Parish Councillors

Once councillors are elected or co-opted they are required to agree to a Code of Conduct and register their financial and personal interests. Meetings are run according to a set of Standing Orders and the Council's financial dealings are proscribed by a set of Financial Regulations. Party politics have no place in the running of the Parish Council.

Councillors are expected to be members of two committees or sub-committees (or more if they wish to) and to attend all meetings of the full council and their chosen committees. Committee meetings are usually quarterly. All meetings are in the evenings, usually in Rotherfield, most start at 19:30 and all are open to members of the public.

The primary role of a councillor is to represent the views and special interests of people who live in the Parish. At meetings councillors are able to participate in decision making, contribute to policy and strategy review, and formulate initiatives which will help the community. There is also the chance to be a Parish Council representative on other statutory bodies and voluntary organisations. The Council encourages councillors to take advantage of the training and learning opportunities that are provided by the District Council and other local bodies.