



## Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

### Newsletter 2017/18

Rotherfield Parish is one of the largest parishes in East Sussex which means that there is a lot of work for your parish council to do and we want you to be informed and involved.

The Parish Council is made up of the following councillors:

Cllr David Thomas

*Chair – Rotherfield Parish Council*

Cllr Robert Harris

*Vice-Chair Rotherfield Parish Council  
Vice-Chair Finance and General Purposes Committee*

Cllr Norman Wickenden

*Vice-Chair Planning and Building Committee*

Cllr David Hiles

*Chair – Planning and Building Committee*

Cllr James Kitchenham

*Vice-Chair – Highways, Lighting and Transport Committee*

Cllr Trevor Gilbert

*Chair – Recreation and Burial Committee*

Cllr Jemma Cahan

*Vice-Chair – Communications and Media Committee*

Cllr Adrian Martin

*Chair – Highways, Lighting and Transport Committee*

Cllr Louise Henrick

*Chair – Finance and General Purposes Committee*

Cllr Adam Hardy

*Chair – Communications and Media Committee*

Cllr Graham Watson-Smith

*Vice-Chair – Recreation and Burial Committee*

Cllr Janice Richardson

The Full Council meets once a month to discuss and agree actions outside of the remit of committees, maintain the budget and debate the larger issues concerning the Parish. In addition to the Full Council we, have various committees doing different tasks:

The Communication and Media Committee have a user-friendly website to keep you up to date. On Twitter, we currently have 322 followers who check our tweets on local information and our Facebook page has 309 regular followers, with posts being seen by up to 1400 people. Parish Council members attend local meetings of many groups and have stalls at local events including the Bonfire Society Fair and school fetes.

The Highways, Lighting and Transport Committee receives a lot of complaints about inconsiderate and dangerous parking. We are actively investigating traffic calming measures in Rotherfield, including a possible 20 mph speed limit. We have purchased and deployed a S.I.D. to monitor speeds since October 2016. He moves around regularly, providing valuable information.

We are in discussions with ESCC to try and get a crossing point on the A267 at Mark Cross. In our parish, the safety of children and the elderly are major concerns. Parking issues, particularly at Eridge station, near to Mark Cross School and in Rotherfield Village Centre and by its school are major concerns about which we regularly discuss at both Parish level and with East Sussex County Council.

We lobbied for a ban on all lorries going through Rotherfield centre but East Sussex agreed a ban on lorries over 10 metres. We have also been able to enforce seasonal closures for vehicles on several footpaths and bridleways. Our Clerk constantly contacts ESCC about potholes with some success and Church Road, Rotherfield Hill and Catts Hill are scheduled for re-surfacing this year.

We have an ongoing programme to repair and replace street lamps – amazingly we have nearly 100 of them and have installed new bollards outside the Memorial Hall. We are installing a new dropped kerb in Rotherfield to improve accessibility for wheelchairs and buggies. We are still considering the possibility of a proper footpath to Jarvis Brook but meanwhile are trying to ensure that the grass verges there are kept cut.

Public Transport: The Parish Council give an annual grant to Weald Link Community Bus and have replaced the bus shelter at Mark Cross this year.

The Recreation and Burial Committee have been active in improving facilities. In Rotherfield we are installing Broadband in the Scout and Youth building and together with the Village Hall have installed lighting to improve safety and security. A vehicle barrier has also been installed which prevents large, unwanted vehicles from entering.

Lighting up our villages: The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Bonfire Society, provided the Christmas lights for Rotherfield and for the first time at Marks Cross also.

We try to interest and involve young people and ran a "Dog Poo" competition at Rotherfield school as well as talking with them about their Parish Council and listening to their views. Their main concerns were about road safety and traffic in Rotherfield ... very similar to the Parish Council! Dogs are banned from the Recreation Ground and Court Meadow Green but fouling remains a problem. New signs for the relevant areas have been ordered.

The Council funds the Sports Club to maintain all the pitches which they do in an excellent fashion, and with a contribution from the Rotherfield Trust, the Parish Council paid to improve the drainage on the lower pitch.

The Council pay for regular litter clearance and general maintenance to keep our villages tidy and attractive. We are responsible for the playground, pitches and Court Meadow Green where we have provided additional benches. These are regularly checked to meet health and safety requirements, as are the "Old" burial ground and "New" cemetery. Considerable remedial work has been done in the latter over the past year and we have updated and simplified our burial rules and regulations. Cost to maintain the "Old" burial ground is currently high and we have implemented a long-term plan to reduce these whilst still maintaining the beauty and solemnity of this area.

As you may be aware, the Parish Council is supporting the erection of a publicly funded war memorial on Court Meadow Green. A planning application has been submitted to Wealden District Council and we await its outcome.

Our Planning and Building committee has the responsibility of considering all planning

applications, within the large Rotherfield Parish, and make recommendations to Wealden District Council. It is a busy committee, meeting approximately 18 times a year. Every application is considered very seriously with the PC trying to make the correct recommendation. The public are welcome to attend all meetings of the Building and Planning Committee and comment on applications.

The final Committee, the Finance and General Purposes committee, has probably the hardest task – the budget! It is made up of the Parish Council Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Chairs of all the committees. Its budget for the coming financial year is £99,397 and it must ensure that all the requirements and responsibilities of all the committees are within budget and continue to meet the needs of the whole parish.

The above is a limited snapshot of what the Parish Council has done and what it is hoping to do in the future. Hopefully it has also helped you to understand the extensive scope of its work and responsibilities.

The Parish Council hopes you will have found this Newsletter informative and wants you to be involved. You are welcome to all meetings and we hope you will continue to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and through the website.

For additional information or to raise issues of concern please contact the Clerk to the Council Trevor Thorpe on:  
01892 664245 or email  
[rotherfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rotherfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk)

*Cllr Janice Richardson and Cllr Adam Hardy*