

Parish Councillors:

(Please contact through the Parish Office)

Stephen Hand (Chairman)
Allan Brown
Rosemary Burns
David Evans
Amanda Geel
Peter Griffiths
Rodney Jackson
Tony Lank
Malcolm Llewellyn
John Lowman
Martin Machan
Claire Majsai
Bob Sampson
Julia Shorrocks
Steve Whitehead

Mid Sussex District Councillors:

Colin Trumble
John Wilkinson
Anthony Watts Williams

West Sussex County Councillor:

Joy Dennis

PARISH OFFICE:

Clerk to the Council – Stephen Hoyles
Assistant Clerk – Roberta Taylor
Assistant Clerk – Charlotte Kempson
Assistant Clerk – Paul Mayne
Maintenance Officer – Nick Sinclair
Cemetery Manager – Richard Lechmere

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
Parish Council

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Hurstpierpoint & Sayers
Common Parish Council



@hurst_pc

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:

14 December 2017
18 January 2018
22 February 2018

COMMITTEES:

Planning:

21 December 2017
4 January 2018
1 February 2018
1 March 2018
13 March 2018

Community Affairs:

25 January 2018
15 March 2018

Finance + General Purposes:

7 December 2017
11 January 2018
8 February 2018
8 March 2018

Website:

Please go to our website for the Council's published information and latest updates:

www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk



More housing..?

The current national debate about the need for more housing covers most of the country, but no less so than in Mid Sussex where there is continuing high demand. So does this mean yet more housing development ?

The Mid Sussex District Council DISTRICT PLAN sets out their proposals for future development across Mid Sussex until 2031. These include plans for business parks, shops and offices, and other facilities, but most importantly housing.

A Government Planning Inspector was appointed to oversee a public examination of the PLAN during 2017. Many different groups, including this Parish Council, gave evidence and the Inspector finished the examination in the autumn and is shortly to formally confirm his findings.

Not surprisingly the main finding is a significant increase on the previous housing targets. The District Council successfully argued for a more manageable rate of building for the next 4 to 5 years, but had to concede to a step-up in the building rate from 2023/24. The overall effect is to plan for around 2500 more homes than was previously expected.

And the Government has recently published national proposals which could have the effect of further increasing these targets in the longer term.



Continued
inside.....

**The Councillors and staff wish all our residents
and businesses a very happy
Christmas and New Year.**

Continued.....

More housing....?

The Parish Council was among the first in the country to produce its NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN for Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common. So far, the PLAN has given us a strong defence against unwanted development – something which some other parts of Mid Sussex have not had. And the Mid Sussex DISTRICT PLAN has accepted that recent housing developments in Hurstpierpoint are sufficient for the time being in our area.

However, beyond the next 4 or 5 years the push to provide more housing across the District will grow, and the Parish Council is concerned that we will once again be under pressure for more development around our villages. We accept that there is a real need for further housing, mainly to meet the needs of young people and families growing up in this part of Sussex. But we are concerned that Mid Sussex District Council is looking to solve these challenges by imposing large developments on existing communities, proposed and promoted by developers. An example is the recent 500-house allocation north of Hassocks, against the wishes of their community. We are worried that this type of development will erode the identity of our communities, as they merge into one another, creating continuous built up areas and loss of precious green space.

So the Parish Council is encouraging Mid Sussex District Council to undertake a District-wide review to identify a single larger strategic allocation, in a location which does not distort the fragile countryside gaps between settlements and which can deliver the required homes along with the necessary planned infrastructure.

We believe that this approach would have the support of our residents and those of many communities in Mid Sussex.

The Parish Council will continue to be closely involved in the planning process, and we will let you know how we are getting on.

Sayers Common housing....

Since 2012 there have been proposals for 120 houses at Kingsland Laines (north of Reeds Lane) in Sayers Common. The Parish Council has resisted this as being too much development for the village, and a public enquiry was held at the end of 2016. (Our NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN said that 30 to 40 new houses was the right number for the village.) The matter has now been referred to the DCLG Secretary of State for final decision, which is expected early in December.

Development along the "A2300".....

There have been some consequences of the progress of the DISTRICT PLAN and Mid Sussex District Council have decided to introduce new proposals along the A2300 road connecting Burgess Hill with the A23. This road largely runs through the countryside of our Parish, so we are keen to limit new development. However, the DISTRICT PLAN includes proposals for a new 'Science and Technology Park' on the south side of the road, and has also allocated land for around 170 houses at West End Farm (opposite St Pauls College). This land had been allocated for business park in our NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, but the District Plan has re-allocated for housing. In both these cases we are looking for reassurances that these developments can be constrained, and not allowed to 'creep' and expand further into the countryside.

Two new Councillors

We are delighted to welcome two new co-opted Councillors: **Peter Griffiths** recently retired following a number of years as a West Sussex County Councillor, and now represents Sayers Common ward on the Parish Council.

Claire Majasai has lived in Hurstpierpoint for a number of years and currently works at St Lawrence School.

New Maintenance Officer

We are pleased to welcome Nick Sinclair who joined the Parish Council staff team in September and you will see him around the Parish in our green van.

Preparing for WINTER....

Last winter was very mild but we can never be sure what the weather will bring. We work with the other local councils to try and ensure the best arrangements with the limited resources, in dealing with any snow and ice that might come our way.

Main roads.... When necessary, the County Council will grit these roads :

- Hassocks Road and the High Street to Albourne (the B2116)
- Albourne to Sayers Common and the A23 (the B2118)
- Cuckfield Road (from the High Street to Goddards Green and A2300)
- Brighton Road. (the B2117)

Other roads ... In severe conditions the County Council enlist the help of some local contractors and farmers to clear, but not grit, some minor roads in Hurstpierpoint following heavy snowfall:

- Trinity Road, Western Road, Marchants Road, College Lane .

These have been chosen because of their particular location and where gradients can cause problems. If you live on any of these please try to keep your car off the road, to help the snow-clearance.

Grit/Salt Bags... Wherever possible bulk bags of grit will placed as follows:

- Western Road, in front of the allotments gate,
- Willow Gardens, corner of Willow Way,
- Iden Hurst, corner of Cuckfield Road,
- Marchants Road, corner of Cuckfield Road,
- Charity Shop/Chantry Stables noticeboard,
- Health Centre, Trinity Road, next to footpath/bench,
- Cherrington Close, corner of Highfield Drive.

These are available for nearby residents' use on pavements – but not for private use. Where possible our local maintenance team will be around to help organise their use. **You only need to lightly sprinkle the grit – otherwise it is wasteful and adds to water pollution.**