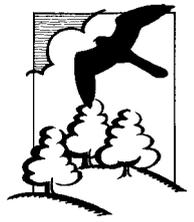


PARISH COUNCIL OF HAWKHURST CHAIRMANS LETTER – April 2019



Hello

After my previous pleas for residents to consider joining the Parish Council, it was fantastic to have four strong candidates put themselves forward for co-option at our April meeting. It was just a shame we only had two vacancies this month. We will have another vacancy at our May meeting, and I would encourage the two candidates who were not selected to reapply. Anyone else who is considering (however vaguely) being a member of the Parish Council, please do get in touch - Richard and I are always happy to have a chat. Personally, I would like to see greater diversity on the Parish Council, as I wholeheartedly believe the more diverse our views, the better the decisions we will make.

I would like to welcome our new members, Ros Cory and Paul Green. I am confident they will both bring valuable skills, experience and enthusiasm to the Parish Council. I am looking forward to getting to know them both and working with them.

As you may be aware one of our key priorities is to improve the services we deliver to the village. Following our March meeting, I am delighted to be able to update you on the progress we have made so far. In our efforts to improve engagement and communication with the community, Richard, our Parish Clerk, is now available in the library on a Monday morning between 9:30 and 11am. Drop in and see him if there are any issues that you would like to raise.

In terms of improving service delivery, we have extended the external caretaker's hours so that this is now a full-time role. We are delighted that Phil Hazell was able to increase his hours from the beginning of April. We're already seeing the benefit within a week. Phil has been working in the cemetery, cleaning signage, painting the litter bins etc. as well as dealing with the broken bench by Tesco. Hopefully, by the time you read this a new bench will be in place.

We are really pleased about the enthusiasm surrounding the Hawkhurst Spring Clean on 12th/13th/14th April. I'm hoping to see lots of you there. Thank you to everyone who has been working to organise this, particularly Richard, our clerk, and Lisa Ridley.

I'm sure planning and development is never far from the minds of most people in Hawkhurst. This month has been particularly busy in this respect, with three major developments in Hawkhurst due for discussion at TWBC's Planning Committee. Initially, this was scheduled for 20th March and we were ready with our arguments. However, the meeting was cancelled at the last minute and will now be happening later this week (10th April). This time, thanks to the efforts of residents in Copthall Avenue, we'll be backed by a petition of more than 600 names against the proposal for double yellow lines in Copthall Avenue. I'm hoping for a good turnout to show the Planning Committee just how strongly Hawkhurst residents feel. I'll let you know how we got on in my letter next month.

One last reminder for those of you reading this online, the Annual Parish Meeting will be Monday April 29th at Hawkhurst Primary School at 7:30pm (doors open from 7:00pm). We'd love to see as many of you there as possible.

Clare Escombe, Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council, April 2019