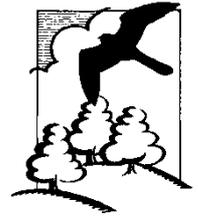


Hello!

It hardly seems possible that it has been a year since I wrote my first letter as Chairman of the Parish Council. It has been a very busy 12 months!



Last February, I was trying to encourage people to put themselves forward for co-option. Now, I want to encourage you to consider standing at the Parish Council election in May. We have 13 councillors on the Parish Council and all 13 places are up for election.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council organise the election. They will publish the Notice of Election by the 31st March. Anyone wishing to stand has until 4pm on Wednesday 8th April to deliver their nomination papers to the Returning Officer at Tunbridge Wells. You will be able to pick up a nomination pack from the Parish Office. If you want to stand, you just need two people (on the electoral roll for Hawkhurst) to support you on your nomination form.

If there are more than 13 candidates, the election will take place on Thursday 7th May. If there are 13 or fewer candidates, then everyone who stands will automatically become a councillor.

This year we reviewed and altered our committee structure so that we now have two main committees, with all councillors being on either the Facilities and Services Committee or the Strategy, Admin and Projects Committee. Both of these committees have a range of responsibilities - for example, Facilities and Services has overseen the commissioning of the new Multi Use Games Area which should be completed by the end of March, while Strategy, Admin and Projects was responsible for our new communications policy and our increased use of social media.

Other committees include the Community Centre Working Group and the Planning Advisory Committee. Both of which have been kept very busy this year, with the design of the new Community Centre and all of the planning applications Hawkhurst receives.

Please do give standing as a councillor serious consideration. If you're supportive of what the Parish Council has done this year, then you could help HPC achieve more. If you disagree with what we have done, then all the more reason to stand and have your say!

If you're interested but not sure whether it's right for you, Richard, our clerk, can give you more details about what it involves. Also, I'm more than happy to have a chat, as I'm sure are the other Parish Councillors.

Clare Escombe
Chairman, Hawkhurst Parish Council
February 2020