

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Winter 2020 Newsletter

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

This is the first newsletter since February from your Parish Council.

We are looking at how we communicate and how we can improve the way we share information with residents.

This edition explains the Parish Council's responsibilities; how it fits into the local government system; how we work and what are our aims and aspirations.

We hope you find it informative and we welcome any questions or comments you may have. Please get in touch using the contact details given at the bottom of each page.

In addition to regular website, Facebook and noticeboards updates, we will be publishing the newsletter 3 times a year.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Over the last few months, we have all been forced into a period when events and social gatherings have been cancelled due to the pandemic. However, your Parish Council has remained very active.

We have taken the time to reflect on our service to the community and how we can engage with you on a regular basis so that within the powers given to us, our activities can reflect your needs.

The Parish Council have been working hard over recent months and have adjusted to a new way of working with all our meetings currently being held virtually using Microsoft Teams.

All councillors are volunteers and dedicate a great deal of time with the aim of delivering great services to the residents served by Upper Beeding Parish Council.

When the COVID-19 crisis is over we are looking to launch a number of initiatives in the community to help us engage with you on a more regular basis.

Our brand-new website is now up and running. Do please take a look at:

www.upperbeeding-pc.gov.uk

All at the Parish Council wish you, your families and loved ones a happy, healthy and safe Christmas, and we look forward in hope for a more 'normal' 2021.



Simon Birnstingl, Parish Council Chairman.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

There are three levels of local government under the current framework; County Council, District Council and Parish Council.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) runs major services throughout the county such as Education and Families, Social Care and Health, Roads and Transport, Libraries, Fire Safety and Crime, Consumer Protection, Libraries, Leisure and Recreation, and Trading Standards.

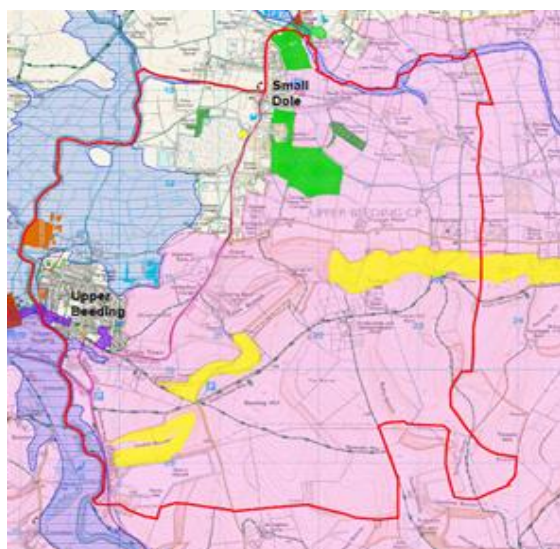
HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

Horsham District Council (HDC) runs more locally based services such as Refuse and Recycling collections, Council Tax collection, Elections, Housing, Planning, Parks and Countryside, Parking, and Environmental Health (which includes Food Hygiene, Health and Safety at Work, Housing Standards, Animals and Pests, Noise and Nuisance).

UPPER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Upper Beeding Parish Council (UBPC) is your local government council focused on local village services.

The Parish Council actually covers a wider area including most of Small Dole and Edburton.



As a council we actively provide the following services:

- Amenities, including the maintenance and planting of some trees, some grass cutting, bus shelters, play areas and equipment in Upper Beeding and Small Dole and also the Small Dole skate park.
- Recreational and Sport facilities: the Sports Hall, the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) and the Memorial Playing Field embracing the football and cricket pitches.
- Youth Clubs (jointly with Bramber and Steyning Parish Councils). Sussex Clubs for

Young People (SCYP) facilitate the youth clubs across the villages. Upper Beeding Youth Club is on Tuesday evenings at the Sports Hall, although during the pandemic sessions have been outside with the Purple bus (below) or at the MUGA.



- Neighbourhood Wardens (jointly with Bramber and Steyning Parish Councils.)
- Cemetery at Botolphs (Upper Beeding, Bramber and Steyning Parish Councils jointly act as the Burial Authority.)
- We are consulted on planning applications
- With major input by local residents we have produced the Neighbourhood Plan. It will go to a referendum as soon as the COVID-19 restrictions allow.
- Allotments are provided next to the recreation ground in Upper Beeding. To rent an allotment please contact our Clerk.
- We award grants to local organisations. Last year were pleased to support: The Hub for Covid Response, Upper Beeding Playschool, Upper Beeding Rainbows and Brownies, the Community Minibus scheme and the Saltings Field Conservation Group.
- In partnership with Beeding in Bloom, supplementing their fundraising, to ensure beautiful floral displays in Upper Beeding. We are also delighted to be able to fund the planters and hanging baskets in Small Dole.
- Councillors represent residents working on their behalf and in partnership with

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Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council.

- We employ Litter Wardens; one in Upper Beeding and one in Small Dole. We also do our best to control dog fouling, graffiti and flyposting.
- Emergency planning including flood protection also falls within the remit of the Council.

NOTE: UBPC should not be confused with the 3B's Parochial Church Council (PCC). This is the Church of England ecclesiastical body focussing on the running of St Peter's Church in Upper Beeding, St Nicholas' Church in Bramber and St Botolph's Church at Botolphs.

PARISH COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The full Parish Council meets once a month. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. There is always a public participation session where residents have the opportunity to raise issues with the council or comment about anything on the agenda.

The agenda covers our statutory duties and include discussions and decisions across our areas of responsibility. District and County Councillors attend most meetings providing updates, information, answering questions, and helping with local issues.

A meeting schedule is on the website and agendas are published at least three full days before the meeting and can be found on the website and noticeboards.

Noticeboards are located at the Parish Council Office; at Hyde Square; at the junction of Saltings Way/High Street, by the bus stop in Dacre Gardens and by the Green in Small Dole. Here you will also find other useful local information.

Meetings are usually held in the Beeding and Bramber Village Hall or the Small Dole Village Hall. However, meetings are currently being held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

COMMITTEES

Committees focus on specific areas and report to full council. This enables smaller groups of councillors with specific areas of expertise and interests to be more involved and to 'get things done'. Our committees are:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Chaired by Chris Verney, the Community Committee focuses on improving engagement with residents. This includes the quality of services delivered, enhancing the wellbeing of residents, supporting local voluntary organisations and clubs, delivering events, communication with residents via the newsletter, social media and the website, and improving communication and consultation with our residents.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Chaired by Chris Warren, the Facilities Committee is responsible for allotments, bus shelters, the band stand, the MUGA and our leisure facilities including sports pitches, the Sports Hall and changing rooms, the play areas, the open spaces and trees.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chaired by Tom Kardos, the Planning Committee considers and responds to planning applications, enforcement issues and all planning related matters.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chaired by Bob Harber, the Finance Committee regularly reviews and updates the budget, expenditure and all financial policies and procedures ensuring compliance with relevant legislation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

There are 15 councillors:

Is Allen
Simon Birnstingl (Chairman)
Alan Chilver
Valerie Cook
Sarah Garrod
Bob Harber (Vice-Chairman)
Fred Heaver
Ian Ivatt
Tom Kardos
Lucy Newton
Joyce Shaw
Sean Teatum
Chris Verney
Chris Warren
Debbie Wood.

Our qualified Parish Council Clerk:

Celia Price (PSLCC, CiLCA).

YOUR COUNCIL MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Over the past 12 months the Council has been investing in the local community. Among the highlights are:

- Planting trees
- New play equipment at Small Dole (below)



- Grants to: Play School, Saltings Field Conservation Group, Beeding in Bloom, Small Dole in Bloom, the Hub Covid Response and Upper Beeding Rainbows and Brownies.
- Our Neighbourhood Plan has passed independent examination.

- The Youth Club now has premises in the Sport Hall, which has given them increased space. The number of sessions has been doubled to provide different sessions for each age group.
- Beeding in Bloom 'Make a Difference Day' (below).



In addition to the usual services we provide, over the next 12 months we aim to achieve the following:

- Becoming Dementia Friendly
- Establishing a community orchard in Hyde Street Open Space.
- Launching a brand new modern, easy to use accessible website.
- When the current crisis is over, providing increased access for the public to meet councillors through our new office in the Gladys Bevan Hall and through Councillor Surgeries.
- To consult more widely and be more engaged with the community.
- A 'made' Neighbourhood Plan, giving more local control and funding direct to the community.



OTHER NEWS AND UPDATES

THE HORTON WASTE TIP

Update from Cllr Chris Warren

The restoration of the dedicated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Horton site is now complete. On a tour of the site at the end of September I was shown the restored area which has been seeded (below), and there are signs of the grass germinating. The site has been carefully contoured to create a small water course for surface water drainage and specially constructed areas to encourage reptiles of various species. The hardcore base for the service road has been totally removed; with topsoil added, this is also now showing new grass.

Viridor are planning an Autumn tree planting programme to give additional landscaping to the whole area. I have to say that I was very impressed with what I saw and look forward to seeing this part of the site in the future once the plantings are established.



SMALL DOLE SKATE PARK

As most of the residents will be aware, we have a timber constructed skate park on the Mackley's field in Small Dole. Although it was not originally financed by the Parish Council, we have paid for all the routine maintenance and major refurbishments for many years. The Skate Park is coming to the end of its useful life; there is a need for a long-term plan as to its possible future, location and replacement.

The Parish Council and its Facilities Committee wish to begin a thorough consultation process with parents, users of all ages and all other interested parties to explore the possibilities for its long-term future.

The Council does not, and will not have, the amount of funding that would be incurred in replacement of the Park. Therefore, external funding sources would need to be found; it is suggested that a group of focused individuals, including some Councillor interest, might be the way to approach a project of this size.

If you are interested in being involved please do let us know, initially via our Parish Clerk, Celia Price.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

Our Facilities Committee appreciates that there are many places in the Parish that are difficult for some people to cross or traverse due to inadequately dropped kerbs, broken paving, vegetation and other obstructions. We are keen to hear from any of you that have encountered these problems, or know someone who rightly complains about walking or buggy access.

We will collate the information and work with WSCC Highways to alleviate and restore these places for proper use.

For the time being please let the Clerk know the exact details and location of a problem so that it can be recorded and the collected results can be directed to the effective people to be acted on.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

After years of Government cutbacks, both the County and the District are no longer able to fully meet some of their responsibilities to the community.

Parish Councils are therefore being asked to take on and pay for more and more routine activities. Already we do commission extra grass cutting to keep the villages tidy, more tree planting, pruning and safety work and clearing blocked drains.

Across our Parish the open spaces need routine maintenance; they would benefit immensely from some regular TLC.

There are various verges and flower beds to be tidied, road signs to be cleaned and gutters to be swept. The historic Saltings Field by the river bank could do with help, keeping overgrowth at bay and an important drainage ditch clear.

Because of this, The Council wants to establish a team of volunteers to help maintain our villages so that they remain great places to live.

So if you have a little time available, can use or possess a few gardening tools and would like to help, please contact Celia.

There would be no regular commitment, but if we could get a team of volunteers when needed that would be amazing. Thank you!

THE COVID HUB RESPONSE TEAM

We are very proud to have been actively involved in helping the Hub Response Team during the first lockdown. We did this by providing a grant and Clerk's hours to help answer the phones. During 18 weeks over 1500 telephone calls were received and actioned helping over 400 residents in Upper Beeding, Small Dole, Steyning, Bramber and surrounding areas by collecting prescriptions, shopping, distributing food bank supplies and various other tasks as needed. We would like to thank The Hub and all those that were involved. It really was an amazing effort by everyone.

FACEBOOK



Did you know we have a Facebook page? Just search for Upper Beeding Parish Council. The page is regularly updated and links directly to our new website. Please follow us on Facebook to stay in touch.

WEBSITE

Do please take a new look at

www.upperbeeding-pc.gov.uk.

Our fresh and welcoming website has now gone live!

Do you run a club or organisation in the village?

Let us have your latest information and we will be very happy to include it on our 'Community' page.

Please note the Community page is not for our local businesses, but we will have a business page listing for those of you who advertise in the newsletter.

BEEDING IN BLOOM

Beeding in Bloom work in partnership with the Parish Council, helping with fundraising, planting and maintenance. The summer displays looked amazing this year and have now been replaced with winter planting.

A huge thank you goes to this amazing team of volunteers who work very hard to keep the village looking so pretty, and to the residents who sponsor a hanging basket or make a donation. If you would like to help or would like to make a donation please contact the Clerk.

To maintain the high standards we really do need to raise more funds, so if you are a local business or resident and would like to be a sponsor, please do get in touch.



CHRISTMAS

This year we were hoping to have Christmas trees in both Upper Beeding and Small Dole as well as a community 'Christmas Song Sing-a-Long'. However, Covid-19 restrictions and associated difficulties mean that it is just not possible this year. Looking ahead, we already have plans afoot for Christmas 2021.



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For the next and future editions we will be reserving the back page for modest business card type adverts.

We will regularly be supporting our local businesses and organisations by providing this opportunity to reach every household in the Parish Council area at a very reasonable rate.

The cost for each advert will be £20 and will include a free listing on our new website business page.

The Clerk will be pleased to give you further information.

We do appreciate your support as we aim for the newsletter to be self-funding.

IN THE NEXT EDITION

The Spring edition will be out by early March. We will have a focus on Finance; how the budget is set and funds are raised. We will also include some Councillor profiles and updates on what we have been doing.

In the meantime, please stay in touch through Facebook, the website, email, telephone or in person.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHURCHES

What gives you hope? What are the things that warm your heart and restores your faith in human life? It's been quite a year hasn't it. None of us would have predicted what lay ahead for 2020 and we probably would not have quite believed it had we been told. Maybe you felt hopeful when gathering on a Thursday evening with neighbours clapping for the NHS. Perhaps, it was the chance to talk to someone new, an unexpected phone call, the opportunity to take more exercise and enjoy the beautiful countryside around or finding pebbles along the riverbank carefully decorated and placed to bring others joy.

For many this has been a hugely challenging year. A year of change, adjustment, loss and the need for great patience and determination. As we approach Christmas and as we write this, we continue to live with uncertainty. We do not know what restrictions government will impose for the next few weeks or when there will be an end to this way of life.

The Christmas story is also one of uncertainty. Out of the blue, Mary receives the news that she is pregnant with the Son of God. Her life is thrown into doubt. How can this be? What will her fiancée Joseph say? Will both Joseph and her family abandon her? What will the neighbours say? Is her very life at risk?

However, Joseph and Mary were both told by the angel, 'Do not be afraid'. Throughout this event, God was with them. It had to happen. This was God's great rescue plan, Jesus came into the world to save the people, to be with humankind always and to give us hope. This Christmas, even if we cannot be with those we love, we are connected through God who is with us all. In him, we have hope now and for the future.

My prayer for you all this Christmas and always, is that you may know God's joy, hope and peace whatever life throws at you.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas,

Rev'd Shirley Tupper

www.3bsparish.org

Rev'd Peter Butchers

<https://www.thehubbeeding.org/>



The Hub  **Beeding**
CAFE | COMMUNITY | CHURCH

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