



April 2017

Your Parish

Danehill Parish Council Newsletter

School Appeal

Thank you to everyone who made their opinions known regarding helping Danehill Village School which has been facing difficulties in funding due to a combination of government cuts and changes in demographics. The PC approved the proposal for a 10k grant to the school, and together with additional fund-raising initiatives, the school has raised over £65,000 which will see it through this difficult period.



Key Decisions Made January - March 2017

Agreement was reached on the following:

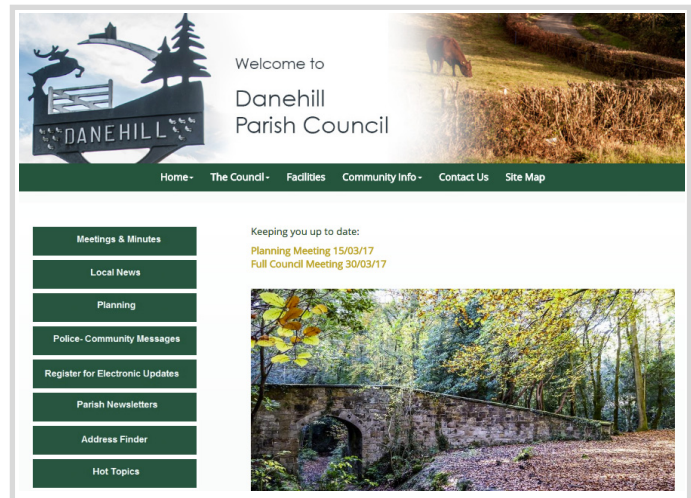
- Reducing the precept by 25%
- Supporting Danehill School with £10,000

Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April 2017 - see page 3

New Website

The new website is up and running. Designed to be more intuitive and to help you find things easily. The first page features 8 key tabs to link you to:

- Meetings & Minutes: agenda, minutes & papers
- Local News: latest information of interest
- Planning: details of Planning meetings
- Police & Community Messages
- Register for Electronic Messages: Newsletters/Alerts
- Parish Newsletter: digital version of the newsletter
- Address Finder: Wealden's easy-to-use housefinder
- Hot Topics: new burning Issues as they arise



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eMails

Please register for eMail if you would like to receive a digital copy of the newsletter instead of one through the post. There is a link on the first page of the PC website 'Register for Electronic Updates', click on this link to send a message to the clerk quoting name, first line of address and postcode so we can take you off the distribution list for the printed version.

We promise we will not bombard you with eMail, only the Newsletter, although we will give you the option of signing up to be contacted for your opinion on important issues e.g. speed limits and any large spending initiatives.

We will not provide your email address to any other party.

Contact clerk@danehill-pc.org to sign up or visit www.danehill-pc.org



Important Decisions Taken

The most important decisions taken in recent meetings are summarised below. Full details are contained in the meeting minutes which can be accessed via the Danehill PC website www.danehill-pc.org or ask the clerk for a hard copy if you do not have access to the internet.

Danehill School Support

The PC unanimously approved the proposal for a 10k grant to the school, which had been outlined to the Council in a paper prior to the meeting. The school has been facing difficulties in funding due to a combination of government cuts and changes in demographics. Given the importance of the school and the strength of feeling demonstrated by those who had written to express their views, the PC believed it was in the best interest of the community to grant the request.

Precept/Budget 2017 – 25% reduction in Parish Council Tax versus 2016

The Parish Council (PC) have set and approved the precept (budget) for the next twelve months starting this April. The precept figure is £111k, a 25% reduction on the previous year. This annual spend is roughly an even split between maintaining existing facilities and new projects. Now we have received our council tax bills you can see your contribution to Danehill Parish Council, for most it will be under £200 per annum.

Setting a budget so early in the life of the new council was not easy, we are still forming our ideas and wanted to make sure we had sufficient funds to meet the needs of the parish over the coming year. It's always good to receive feedback from the local community and we had a limited mix of comments regarding where the precept should be set. Since we had reserves some wanted the precept set at zero for this year, others were looking at no change and some said we should increase the precept in line with inflation.

Even though we have set the budget we have agreed that we will still debate and individually approve any major expenditure. This was the case with the school community grant and the same process will apply to new projects such as resurfacing the Jubilee Green pitch & road speed reduction measures. With all decisions we invite input from the community. For those wanting more information, the detailed budget figures can be found on the PC website and any questions addressed to the clerk.

Chairman's Message

Your Parish Council has been extremely busy since Christmas on a range of issues for the community, which are all mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, however, I would like to focus on our strategy for the future.

When deciding on setting the reduced precept, we were very keen to preserve the surplus funds we inherited from the last Council to improve the facilities within our Parish. We have surplus funds of around £150,000, which could be leveraged to obtain grants from the District, sporting bodies and the Lottery for appropriate projects that benefit the community.

We have three ageing village halls and an under-utilized recreation ground, so now is surely the right time to take a fresh look at the facilities needed for our community in the 21st century. At this stage your Council does not have any fixed views, but we do want to get ideas from parishioners of facilities needed for the future. In order to help your Council carry out this forward-looking review, we are considering the engagement of an independent facilitator to guide us and the Community through a structured process. Our surplus funds, together with potential grants, could provide us with an opportunity to transform our parish facilities with no additional charge to the precept, but it will need the support of the whole community to ensure that the correct decisions are made.

In the meantime, I should like to remind you all that on the 27th April we have the Parish Annual Meeting starting at 7.30pm in Chelwood Gate Village Hall. The purpose of this annual meeting is for you to meet your Councillors, hear an overview of what we have been up to and to give us feedback and ideas for the future.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 27th.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

Andrew Goodburn

Wealdlink Bus Service

Community Bus - Thursday door-to-door shopping trips to Crowborough via Waitrose, Morrisons & Lidl. If you do not need to shop – have coffee and a chat with friends. Call Wealdlink on 01892 771332 to register your interest. News! - Wealdlink will be announcing a new weekly service, in the summer, from the Cats Protection Headquarters at Chelwood Gate around the forest.

Volunteer Mini Bus Drivers Needed!

Enjoy driving? Have any free time?

Like to be involved in your local community?

If so, please call David Homewood, Wealdlink Ops Manager, on 01892 771332

RECYCLING BINS AT CHELWOOD GATE

Recycling bins have been sited in Chelwood Gate for a number of years courtesy of Chelwood Gate Village Hall (CGVH) Committee in their private car park - this is a facility that benefits the whole community.

On many occasions items have been deposited on the ground around the bins – basically fly tipping for which there is a hefty fine for anyone caught.

CGVH Committee kindly asks that in the event the bins are full, to not leave anything on the ground but instead take it to the Danehill, Forest Row or Maresfield recycling bins/centres. Other items not listed as recycling items should be taken to the Forest Row or Maresfield recycling centres.

It might seem obvious but some people are abusing the system and creating a problem. We do not want parishioners fined or to lose the recycling bins completely. CGVH Committee also request that drivers take special care and consideration of Hall users when entering or leaving the car park.

Traffic Speed Measuring Devices

The PC arranged with East Sussex County Council for a traffic speed measurement exercise to be conducted in the parish in mid-to-late March. Eight locations were chosen where state-of-the-art devices would discreetly record vehicle speeds in both directions, 24 hours a day for one week. Locations were chosen in areas of existing concern - all of them well within 30 or 40 mph limits - i.e. where vehicles should already have slowed down. In particular three devices were located on the A275 (two in Danehill and one in Chelwood Gate), two near Danehill School, and one on each of Freshfield Lane, Stone Quarry Road and Beaconsfield Road.

Whilst the data won't result in penalties or prosecutions for drivers (vehicle details are not recorded), the exercise should provide us with a solid, scientific basis for our future roads strategy and should take some of the guesswork out of a topic that is of great concern to many parishioners.

Defibrillators & Training



The PC has purchased two defibrillators, one sited at each of the village halls. Training is to be provided for up to 20 people and is planned for Tues 2nd May, 6:30pm – 9.00pm at CG Hall. If you would like to volunteer for training please contact the clerk. The training is free and everyone is welcome.

Annual Parish Meeting - 27.4.17

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7:30pm - Chelwood Gate Village Hall. This is a chance to meet local groups as well as your parish councillors in an informal setting - refreshments will be available and local clubs, societies, institutions will be present to showcase themselves.

Jubilee Green

Early warning - please note that the grass surface will be off-limits for about 3 months from September as we level and re-seed the surface.

Village Market Parish Council Surgeries

Come along to your Danehill and Chelwood Gate Village Market and talk to a Parish Councillor. Chat about what you are happy/unhappy with in the Parish and help us to understand more of how you, the Parishioners feel. Enjoy the amazing local foods and crafts that are on offer too – it's a great day out.

Dates, timings and venues are:

- Sat 20th May 10am-2pm Chelwood Gate Village Hall
- Sat 23rd September 10am-2pm Chelwood Gate Village Hall
- Sat 18th November 10am-2pm Danehill Memorial Hall

We appreciate and respect your comments as - feedback from our Parishioners, either through these surgeries or Council meetings help us better meet your needs and wishes.

Church Lane, Danehill - Double Yellow Lines – Consultation

East Sussex Highways (ESH) have carried out a consultation exercise (SCH-072) amongst residents local to Church Lane – the PC contacted ESH as some local residents were not contacted. We have been advised that in such an exercise the consultation is aimed specifically at those deemed most 'directly affected' by the works, i.e. 'frontagers'.

Those not 'directly affected' have the chance to support or object to the proposals when ESH publish the traffic regulation order in the local paper and install a notice on site. Further information will be published on www.danehill-pc.org or, if you do not have Internet access, please contact clerk@danehill-pc.org or call 01342822404

Ashdown Forest Liaison Panel

The bridge between Braeberrys Gate drive and the ponds has now been replaced thanks to an anonymous benefactor and East Sussex Right of Way. Cattle are still being wintered at Trees Enclosure and come spring/summer a number of enclosures will be erected with either traditional fencing or invisible fencing. Locations of all of these enclosures will be found on the Forest website. In the Education Barn a good number of improvements have taken place including solar panels, boiler and heating replacement, insulation and double glazing. For more information on news and events please visit www.ashdownforest.org



Anyone For Tennis?

A lot of people have asked about the facilities & you'll be pleased to know that the tennis courts will be cleaned & painted in April, along with getting new nets.

BOWLS FOR FUN OPEN DAY 22.4.17



The Isle of Thorns and District Bowls Club on the A275 at Chelwood Gate (in the Cat's Protection grounds) are having an Open Day on the 22nd April, 2017 (11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00 p.m.) and welcome all who would like to play bowls in the heart of the Ashdown Forest. It is great fun and players, with or without previous experience, are very welcome. All you need are some flat shoes with no ridges on them. We will provide all other equipment and hope some of you will come and join us at the club for laughter and gentle exercise. (Phone Barbara Bird 01342 323861 for more information if needed.)

Danehill Photographic Group

Meetings take place on the 1st Wednesday in the month at Chelwood Gate Village Hall, 8:00-10:00pm

We are a small friendly group who live locally. Our meetings cover the technical and artistic aspects of photography. We run competitions have workshops and occasional outside speakers. We have a wide range of experience in the group with club members using everything from phone cameras to sophisticated digital SLR cameras. Annually we publish a local calendar and also run an exhibition which can be seen at a number of locations such as the Princess Royal Hospital and local libraries.

Please come along and see what our meetings are like, there is no obligation to join. Occasionally meetings are away from the Village Hall so please check on our facebook page or email: danehillphoto@btinternet.com - Andrew Pattison



EMERGENCY PLANNING

An update is ongoing in relation to local people with available skills & equipment should an emergency occur. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01342 822404 or email clerk@danehill-pc.org should you wish to register.

Danehill Parish Council Office

Chelwood Gate Village Hall
Beaconsfield Road
Chelwood Gate
E. Sussex RH17 7LF
Emma Fulham
Parish Clerk & RFO
clerk@danehill-pc.org
www.danehill-pc.org
Tel: 01342 822404

Councillors

Andrew Goodburn
Dee Birchall
Tony Blake
Catherine Crouch
Rhodri Lewis
Neil Macleod
Adrian Martorana
Emma Mills
Andrew Pattison

Responsibilities

Chairman & Burial Ground & Memorial
Chelwood Gate Village Hall
Chairman of Planning Committee
Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Panel,
Emergency Planning & Wealdlink
Danehill Rec & Jubilee Green (including
Chelwood Gate Village Green)
Highways & Footpaths
Communications
Danehill Village Hall & Primary School
Chairman of Finance Committee

What Does The Parish Council Do?

County Council, District Council, Parish Council? It can be very confusing to understand who has what responsibility. This is a simple guide (www.gov.uk) to what responsibilities the various councils hold.

County Council

Responsible for services across the whole of a county:

- education
- transport
- planning
- fire and public safety
- social care
- libraries
- waste management
- trading standards

District Council

Covers a smaller area than county councils. Usually responsible for services like:

- rubbish collection
- recycling
- Council Tax collections
- housing
- planning applications
- environmental health including noise pollution

Parish Council

Operates below district and county level. They're elected and can help on a number of local issues including:

- allotments, trees on parish grounds
- bus shelters
- burial grounds
- community centres
- play areas and play equipment
- grants to help local organisations
- consultation on neighbourhood planning

**POWER CUT?
CALL 105**


Or call us
24 hours a day on
0800 31 63 105

Power Cut?

One of the drawbacks of living in a rural area is the number of power cuts. Contact UK Power Networks free and they will keep you updated on progress in repairing the fault, likely time to fix the problem etc.

- Call 105, or 0800 31 63 105
- Text POWER & your postcode to 80876

Anti-Social Driving
& Abandoned Vehicles

**Operation
Crackdown**

**DON'T
TOLERATE IT
REPORT
IT!**

Fed Up With Anti-Social Driving?

Report it online at www.operationcrackdown.org
It takes 5-10 minutes to complete the form and is anonymous. You can even follow up and see what action was taken.

**POST
OFFICE**

Services are available every Friday

Chelwood Gate Village Hall:
10.00 - 12.00 (10am to Noon)

Danehill Social Club:
14.30 - 16.30 (2.30pm to 4.30pm)

Useful Contact Details

WEALDLINK PASSENGER SERVICE
01892 771332
PARISH BOOKINGS
Chelwood Gate Village Hall
01825 740562
Danehill Village Hall
01825 790797
Recreation Ground
01825 740731

Calendar

27th April 2017	Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm CGVH
25th May 2017	PC AGM 7.30pm DS
29th June 2017	PC Meeting 7.30pm CGVH

DS=Danehill School CGVH = Chelwood Gate Village Hall