

Parish Councillors:

(Please contact through the Parish Office)

- John Wilkinson (Chairman)
- Stephen Hand (Vice-chairman)
- Sue Bourn
- Rosemary Burns
- Greg Driver
- David Evans
- Rodney Jackson
- Susanna Kemp
- John Lowman
- Judith Marsh
- Neil Milton
- Bob Sampson
- James Smith
- Matthew Stokes
- Julia Shorrocks

Mid Sussex District Councillors:

- Simon Banham
- Jack Callaghan
- Colin Trumble

West Sussex County Councillor:

- Peter Griffiths

PARISH OFFICE:

- Clerk to the Council – Stephen Hoyles
- Assistant Clerk – Roberta Taylor
- Assistant Clerk – Charlotte Kempson
- Maintenance Officer – Cliff Everest
- Cemetery Manager – Richard Lechmere

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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website for more information: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk

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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 March, 11 April, 9 May

COMMITTEES:

Planning & Environment:
21 March, 18 April, 23 May

Services:

14 March, 4 April

Community Affairs:

28 March, 30 May

Website:

The Council has launched a new 'site' with more features. Please go to:

www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk



Parish 2031

**Neighbourhood Plan
 Feedback from public exhibition...**

During the five days of the Neighbourhood Plan exhibition in October in Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common we received over 600 visitors and 552 completed questionnaires. Many lively discussions took place between residents and Parish Councillors and the Council would like to thank everyone who visited and gave us their views.

The response to many aspects of the draft plan was very positive. Most importantly the Council received overwhelming (99%) support for the fundamental objective of the plan to preserve the rural nature of our villages and communities. Proposed improvements in local amenities such as recreation spaces and protection for our countryside received approval ratings of between 80% and 90%.

The proposed development of new housing in our Parish proved more contentious. General development principles in the Plan met with strong overall support, especially the prevention of coalescence between neighbouring communities (96.2%).

Please look inside for more details.... →



**Please go to our website for all the background:
www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk**

**High Street Improvements
 18th century street taking 21st century traffic...**

The Council also ran an exhibition last November to show the proposed improvements in traffic management and pedestrian environment for Hurstpierpoint High Street. This met with approval from nearly 92% of respondents to the Neighbourhood Plan. Many valuable comments were received and some suggestions already adopted, in particular not to move the eastbound bus stop from its lay by at the western end of the High Street. A working party led by the Council Chairman and including two voluntary independent experts will now examine the plans and responses in greater detail before moving on to the next stage.

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Parish 2031 Neighbourhood Plan

Feedback from public exhibition...

The proposal to plan for 220 houses over the 20 years of the plan received 44% agreement from the public. Comments acknowledged that without the plan there would be more uncontrolled development but expressed concern that this number would overwhelm the current infrastructure (roads, schools, drainage etc.). A number of people also felt that proposed housing was too concentrated in one quadrant, would all be built at once and would not be the end of the development. The Council will take these concerns on board and work with other authorities particularly on ensuring that infrastructure is put in place before proposed developments are permitted to proceed and that the number in the plan is the limit of new developments in the Parish. We noted that despite these valid concerns only 21% of respondents opposed the total number of planned houses.

Support for a business park development at Goddards Green was less than 40% although a higher proportion (56%) agreed with the development of a community sports facility in the same area. The main concern was that there is no real demand for a business park as similar space remains persistently unoccupied. The Council will work to ensure that this development only takes place as part of a coherent Mid Sussex strategy for the Burgess Hill 'northern arc' which does not allow overspill of Burgess Hill housing into our Parish.

Only 34% of respondents supported the proposed development of the Little Park Farm site and many people raised concerns over access, potential impact of additional traffic, drainage from the site and protection for the ancient woodland. As Councillors said at the recent planning committee meeting we will continue to work hard to ensure that these important concerns are addressed when dealing with the planning application. This site has previously been considered suitable for 250 houses in Mid Sussex planning documents. Without the efforts of the Parish Council the planning application would have contained a far higher number. We noted that 51% were in favour of the combined Little Park and Highfield Drive developments when these included the 40 acre proposed country park, and we will ensure that the transfer of land remains a watertight element of the planning application.

We will now develop a final version of our plan to be presented for approval by Parish residents at a future referendum following validation by MSDC. The emerging plan will continue to be used to guide Parish Council reactions to planning applications, for example rejecting an application for 93 houses which would have breached our coalescence principle by bringing the boundary of Hurstpierpoint far too close to that of neighbouring Hassocks.

Parish 2031 Neighbourhood Plan

CONSULTATION DRAFT for public comment – We are hoping to publish this Plan in early March, with responses required by mid-April. Please watch our website and noticeboards for more information.

Cemetery trees...

We have a number of very large and old conifers in the 'Garden of Rest' area of the South Avenue Cemetery. Whilst they looked attractive once, they are now overbearing and have created an unwelcoming damp and dark area. We asked those visiting the area for their thoughts and, overwhelmingly, they agreed that the trees should be replaced by something lighter and brighter. We intend to do this later this year.



Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club has just received a grant of £2,500 to help refurbish part of the Fairfield Pavilion.

Council Tax

The Parish Council has approved a budget for the year 2013/14 which includes continuing work on the improvements to the High Street, support to the Hurstpierpoint Society tree programme, village garden improvements, and improvement to the South Avenue Recreation Ground play area. In order to help fund this improvement programme the Council has decided to increase the Council Tax by 1.99%, equivalent to about £1.20 per year extra for each household in the parish. Or about 2p per week.

Budget 2013/14:

Total expenditure:	£256,002
Income:	£32,960
Precept:	£168,000
Deficit	£55,042
One-off and capital items:	£56,500

Grants to local groups....

The Parish Council operates a community grant system that considers applications twice yearly, in May and November. The grant requests are usually in the range of £100 - £500, and are welcome from local groups and charities whose work will benefit directly the residents in our Parish. Applications will be considered by the Community Affairs Committee of the Council at its meeting on 30 May 2013; therefore the deadline to get the application and supporting information to the Parish Council office is Monday 20 May 2013. An application form, accompanying information and a list of recent successful grant requests can be found on our website or by contacting the Parish Council Office.



Snow clearing ...

Just to say a special thank you to those members of the public who volunteered to help with the recent clearing after the sudden snowfall earlier in January. Thanks also to Cliff and Richard (from our part-time Parish Office team) who distributed the grit.