

Burwash Parish Matters, May 2022

Support for Ukrainian Refugees

At its April meeting Joanna Birdsey, who is leading others in the Community to support refugees who will be settling here, addressed Councillors. Joanna is working with others to ensure as much as possible is done to ensure those moving into Burwash and their hosts are given as much information and help as possible. The Parish Council has made a grant of £4000 available for this purpose, as well as other resources that can be provided. You can follow this work on the facebook site:
Burwash Sussex Ukrainian Assistance.

Spring Clean



Thanks to all those who helped tidy up the Village in April, and for those in the Weald and Common who tidied those areas in October. Not all those who helped have been captured on camera, but you know who you are! Thanks also to Fiona for providing the refreshments and the space for us to meet together. Because of the very favourable feedback, we will be organising another Spring Clean across the whole of Burwash next year.

Speed Watch

Burwash Community Speedwatch group is looking for more volunteers to help curb excessive speeds in Burwash Parish. You may have seen some of the volunteers in their high-viz jackets by the roadside. This is your opportunity to boost a valued community project. Volunteers log and report to police those drivers who exceed the limits. The police then send letters to offending drivers, advising them that they have been recorded driving too fast and urging them to curb their speed. There is an increasing level of enforcement for those who disregard the warning. Volunteers can opt for as many sessions as they can manage there is no minimum number and they check speeds at numerous spots throughout the parish, not just Burwash village. You will be given full training. Interested? If you can help, please contact the scheme's coordinator Ken Macleod at kenfmacleod@btinternet.com

Burwash Parish Assembly

On Thursday 26th May, we will be holding the Annual Parish Assembly, where community groups come together to share their work and achievements with others. It is also an important occasion for parishioners to raise issue of concern with the Parish Council. The last meeting was held in September – rather later in the year than usual - because of the Covid restrictions.

We hope this year's event will be as well attended. Emma, the Parish Clerk, will be in touch with you if you took part last year, but if you were not there, and would like your group to be represented, please let her know. The Meeting starts at 7pm and includes refreshments.

Burwash Annual Meeting

As with all Council meetings, you are invited to attend the annual meeting which is on Tuesday 10th May in the Parish Rooms. Included on the agenda, which you can see on the Burwash Parish website, will be a Financial Report as well as the election of all the officers of the councils who represent us on various committees and outside organisations, as well as the Chair and deputy Chair of the Council.

Allotments

The need for additional allotments in the area is acknowledged and money has been set aside to provide these in the next financial year. The Parish Council is working with the Burwash Playing Field Association (BPFA) to find and prepare suitable ground and make this happen! There are currently 16 residents who have approached us about the need for an allotment and we hope to have a proposal with the BPFA shortly.

Toilets and Car Park

Rother District Council (RDC) has replaced the lighting in the car park adjacent to the Bear inn. These are now energy efficient, down lighters so in keeping with the Dark Skies policy of the Parish. We are optimistic that the toilets will be re-opened soon. The hold-up has been over the lease, currently held with our lawyers for approval. The Council is reluctant to sign the lease until RDC have done all the necessary work on the Car Park, such as the relining. We hope that this will soon be resolved, the lease passed on to the Parish Council, and then they can be reopened.

Links to Stonegate Station

There is currently a Bridleway from Lower Bough Farm to Spring Land and onwards to Stonegate Station. Sadly, this is not always accessible, especially after rainfall, and the surface is not helpful to walkers and cyclists. The Parish Council is seeking to work with Ticehurst Parish Council to improve the path and thereby improve accessibility.

Improving Communications

Hopefully, by the time you read this the Parish Noticeboard will be in place outside the Parish Council Rooms. This is where Council information, such as agenda and minutes of meetings will be displayed. We will also be providing a Community News board, to replace the fence that was removed in the recent Car Park improvements. This will be for any parish group or individual to use. It will be monitored by councillors who will remove any posters that become illegible, or whose information becomes outdated.

Know your Councillors



Ron Hewett has lived in Burwash for some 15 years and has had two spells as a member of the BPC; and the present spell now just over a year. He was involved with the previous speed reduction action through the villages of the Parish. He is now looking to begin the exploration of activities for the Young Parishioners. Ron is currently a part time teacher in a secondary school in Maidstone, where he has been teaching Maths and Science for over 12 years. He is a keen a keen gardener, and enjoys his time with his grandchildren; as well as helping out with many DIY projects.

The next Full Council meeting is on Tuesday 10th May.

If you would like to comment on any of the above items, or would like to receive printed copies of Parish Matters and Council Minutes, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk: Emma Neil at Burwash Parish Council Office, High Street, Burwash, Etchingham, TN19 7EU
Email: parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk or telephone 07375 809 660