

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

BULLETIN



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SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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RESIGNATION OF RALPH DELLOW FROM THE COUNCIL

Since Ralph joined the Parish Council in 2000, he has been dedicated to helping the people of Sedlescombe, particularly the more vulnerable. Ralph was instrumental in setting up the Crime & Safety Committee of the Council and through it Sedlescombe became the first parish in the county to contribute towards the employment of a Police Community Support Officer. He was also a very "hands on" councillor and spent many hours of his time installing locks on windows and doors in homes throughout the Village. Later he worked on the public footpaths and, together with Reg Glew and Jonathan Vine-Hall, removed more than twenty stiles from paths close to the Village centre, replacing them with easily-managed gates instead. Unfortunately, Ralph's health has recently restricted what he can do and he has now decided to devote his attention to matters other than connected with the Parish Council. He will, however, continue to help villagers whenever he can.

PUMP AND PUMHOUSE PROJECT

As reported in the 2010 Annual Report, the Parish Council has decided to raise funds to restore Sedlescombe's old village pump and repair the shelter, known as the pumphouse. Many of you will have been involved in, or attended, the successful May Fayre which raised £1,750 towards the cost. This community effort recently helped persuade the Warr Partnership to make a grant of nearly £9,000 towards the project. This means the work can begin very soon with the complete temporary removal of the pump casing and its surrounding railings. The project is expected to take about three months to complete.

The Clerk would still like to hear from people who can remember using the pump to collect water. She intends to produce a leaflet detailing something about the history of the old pump as well as a description of the restoration.

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Once again, the annual meeting in the hall at the end of April was very well attended by more than a hundred people. Comments made from the floor included objections to the speed of traffic, the number of heavy lorries through the Village and a call for a 20mph speed limit. This is unlikely to be approved, but Demi continues to run speed checks at various times of the day. Another concern is the number of new houses currently being squeezed onto small plots of ground in Sedlescombe. A copy was available at the meeting of Rother District Council's plans showing land in the villages which might be suitable for housing development in the coming years.

At the end of the Assembly, three long-term members of our community who had died during the previous year were remembered. They were Pamela Corbett, John Kemp and Marjorie Lister.

ACTION PLANS

Eight years ago, the Parish Council undertook a major consultation exercise in the parish asking for residents' views on future plans for Sedlescombe. This resulted in the Sedlescombe Parish Plan 2002-2007. A recent review of the Plan has found that 49 of the "actions" have been achieved, 26 are still in progress, 13 have not been tackled yet and 5 have been abandoned. The Council will take another look at the list and make some decisions, especially on those that have not been tackled to see whether they should be moved to the "abandoned" category or, maybe, progressed.

PESTALOZZI

A Premises Licence Application for the 2010 four-day Black Horse Music Festival at Pestalozzi caused a lot of discussion in certain areas of the Village. Following a hearing in Bexhill, attended by a group of local residents, the Rother District Council's Licensing Panel made the decision not to agree to the event taking place. Pestalozzi has now arranged several smaller events which only need a temporary events licence to raise much-needed funds for the charity. Pestalozzi has been a part of Sedlescombe for the last fifty years.

LADYBIRD LANE

This is the name of the private road leading from the bottom of Chapel Hill to the Pestalozzi buildings and is also the access to the Sedlescombe Sportsfield Car Park. The bad winter weather has contributed to serious potholes in the Lane and it is the Parish Council's responsibility, as owner of the Sportsfield, to share in the cost of repairs of the portion up to the car park. Pestalozzi is currently considering how the cost should be met as part of its project to improve some of its buildings and in connection with the housing development scheduled close to the Oaklands Manor and Stables properties. It is expected that the Parish Council will contribute up to £4,000 in the next financial year.

JUNCTION A21/MARLEY LANE

The road junction improvement at Marley Lane is now complete. The work was a condition of planning approval for industrial sites in Marley Lane and was supported financially by Rother District Council. Prior to the current difficult economic situation, it was expected that 380 new jobs could be provided.

YELLOW LINES

The vexed question of the imposition of yellow lines in Sedlescombe might not be the answer to our parking problems. If a request to the County Council is made, lines to stop parking could be imposed. However, the whole of the centre of the Village would be surveyed by the County Council and parking might end up being stopped in many places, some of which might be inconvenient and adversely affect businesses. The other problem is that the County Council currently has a list of 28 yellow line applications and has to prioritise its work. The Parish Council has been told that ESCC can only do one or two villages/towns a year. Parking problems are, it seems, set to stay in Sedlescombe for the longer term.

The Parish Council welcomes the re-introduction of the "walking bus" from the village hall to the school, thanks to helpers who have volunteered to be part of this project. The "bus" helps to relieve the parking situation a bit in Brede Lane in the mornings.

AMENDMENT TO 2010 SEDLSCOMBE DIRECTORY

Please amend your copy of the Directory as follows: Under "Electrical" please change Alan Birtwistle's mobile number to 07941 869398.

BAD WEATHER

Thankfully, the winter weather seems just a distant memory at the moment but it has not been forgotten by the County Council which is currently reviewing its winter maintenance arrangements. The lack of salting of some bus routes and steep hills caused particular problems. Many requests for additional salting, including some from Sedlescombe, were sent through to the County Council. It now seems likely that local people will be asked to take more responsibility in future for clearing snow and ice from paths outside their own properties.

During the bad weather, many of us realised, maybe for the first time, what a valuable asset we have in our village shop. Thank you Jenny and John for supplying our needs during the winter and, hopefully, local people will repay you by making sure they use the shop regularly in the future.

BUDGET CAR COMPANY

Despite many visits to the site by other local authorities, the Company remains unwilling to co-operate. Further action is expected to be taken in the near future.

CASUAL VACANCY, SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
People living or working in the parish of Sedlescombe are invited to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council.

The closing date for applications is Friday 23rd July 2010 at 5pm. If you are interested in being co-opted to the Council, please complete the tear off slip on the accompanying page and return it to the Clerk.