

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

BULLETIN



JANUARY 2011 www.sedlescombe.org.uk

ISSUE 39

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Valerie Wright (Chairman)
01424 870220
Anthony Rand (Vice Chairman) 01424
870722
Pauline Glew 01424 870258
John Marland 01424 870473
Pat Martin 01424 870353
Jenny Mitchell 01424 870707
Jonathan Vine-Hall 07973 129505

CORRECTION

ALTEC ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Please note that Alan Birtwistle's mobile number is 07941 869398 and not as listed in the 2010 Directory.

RUBBISH

The Council has congratulated Rother on its rubbish collection over Christmas and the New Year.

PARISH HEDGE SURVEY

The Parish Council is looking for local volunteers who are willing to get involved in doing a Sedlescombe Parish Hedge Survey. Sedlescombe Parish Councillors have agreed to organise the survey in response to a request from The Sussex Wildlife Trust. The only pre-condition is that all the volunteers should enjoy what they are doing! The Wildlife Trust will supply training in hedge surveying together with maps, survey forms, guidance notes, etc. All the data obtained will be entered on the Sussex hedgerow database and put on the Trust's Geographic Information System. The month of May appears to be the best time to start but please contact the Clerk now if you would like to be included.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

It is expected that the Parish Council will function with just seven councillors until the Elections in May following the resignation of Mary Irwin and Caitlin Wheatley.

Mary has been a reliable parish councillor for twenty years and has been involved over the time with nearly all the Council committees. As an ex-teacher, she was chosen as the Parish Council's representative on the Board of Governors of Sedlescombe Primary School, a post she continued to hold until parish councils were no longer able to appoint School Governors when she continued in her own right. The Parish Council appreciates her sterling service to the community and wishes her a much healthier 2011.

Caitlin joined the Council more recently and has been involved in Planning and Crime & Safety. Her contributions as a younger resident have been valuable. Caitlin now finds that her family commitments prohibit her from being fully involved in the work of the Council in Sedlescombe.

ELECTIONS

The 2011 parish council elections are due to be held on **THURSDAY 5 MAY**. Sedlescombe residents who are interested in working for the community on a voluntary basis are invited to consider standing for election. There has been an excellent response from residents when there have been vacancies on the Council during the last term of office and, hopefully, there will be plenty of people willing to put their names forward this year. Eligibility details and how to obtain the required paperwork will be available in the next couple of months on the Council's website and on the noticeboard.

It is generally agreed that 2011 will be a challenging time for local authorities. Full details of new powers and responsibilities have not been announced, but it is expected that parish councils will be even more fully involved in local affairs than before. Please note that, as Sedlescombe does not have a political council, applicants do not need to belong to a political party or any other group.

RURAL ROTHER TRUST

The Parish Council thinks that many local people are not generally aware of the work of the Rural Rother Trust. This small Trust helps those in need in rural areas and is administered by Rother District Council. Applications can be made by anyone living in the rural areas by contacting the Rural Rother Trust at the Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea TN39 3JX. The Trust could help, for instance, in assisting to get people back into work by providing money for tools or helping a family on a low income with a small but useful grant.

BONFIRES

Right at the start of the New Year, the Parish Council received two enquiries about bonfires, particularly regarding what is and is not allowed.

Firstly, there are no byelaws in Rother which allow or prohibit burning. However, if bonfires cause a nuisance to neighbours, Rother District Council's Environmental Health Department can take offenders to court under The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Neighbours complaining will probably be asked to keep a diary of events to assist the investigating officers.

Any bonfire on trade premises which causes dark smoke is an offence regardless of whether anybody else is affected (section 2, 1993 Clean Air Act). The fines could be up to £20,000 for each offence.

If you do decide to have a bonfire, please take every care to limit the inconvenience to your neighbours. It is helpful if you can alert your nearest neighbours so they can be prepared.

SEDLSCOMBE'S PUMP & PUMPHOUSE – a brief history

Thanks to the generosity of Battle Partnership, every household in the parish will be receiving a free copy of the recently-published booklet about Sedlescombe's interesting pump and shelter. Written by Sedlescombe's Clerk, it has been published by the Council. Additional copies will soon be available in Sedlescombe Stores, priced £1.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

Most of the responsibility for keeping roads and pavements clear during cold weather rests with East Sussex County Council and they have decided which roads they will grit first (primary routes). In Sedlescombe this means the B2244, Brede Lane through to Pottery Lane, Sedlescombe to Westfield via Chapel Hill, Paygate Road, Marley Lane and the A21. 25 gritters are used covering more than 840 miles across East Sussex. During snow and very severe icy conditions, an additional 130 miles of secondary roads are gritted (secondary routes). In Sedlescombe this means Stream Lane and Poppinghole Lane.

Despite this work, there is no guarantee that treated roads will always be completely clear. It takes time for the salt to become effective and, in very cold weather, even salt won't prevent roads from icing. Also, there can be isolated spots on the road where running water from rising springs can wash the salt away before it becomes effective leaving icy patches. This can be a particular problem in Sedlescombe where there are a lot of springs. If a road is not on a primary or secondary gritting route, it will not be gritted. Minor rural and urban roads are left to thaw naturally. Pavements will not be gritted.

All requests for extra grit bins must be channelled through the Parish Council or the District Council. Sedlescombe Parish Council has decided not to meet the cost of providing new grit bins in the parish and will, therefore, only forward requests for new bins to the County Council if the money (£275 in the first instance to include grit) is forwarded with the request and a suitable location has been identified. The cost of refilling the bin will be £70 on each occasion. People taking grit from the existing bins around the Village to spread on their own property are guilty of theft.

Able-bodied people should consider clearing the snow and ice from outside their own properties and should keep a small stock of grit to use as necessary. A shovel full of grit will be sufficient for 20-30 sq.metres of road or path.

SEDLSCOMBE LIFT SCHEME needs more volunteer drivers. Please contact Cllr Glew on 01424 870258.

2011 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING OF SEDLSCOMBE. Tuesday 26/04/11. As usual, display tables will be available for local clubs, societies and businesses. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

SEDLSCOMBE ANNUAL REPORT AND 2011 DIRECTORY

Local businesses are being invited to submit adverts for inclusion in this year's Directory. The charge for a 60mm x 50mm business advert will be a minimum of £21 including VAT of £3.50 (cheques made payable to Sedlescombe Parish Council). The Council is very grateful for the generosity of local businesses whose contributions have in recent years covered the cost of printing enough copies for a Directory for one to be distributed to each house in the parish of Sedlescombe. Some copies are usually left in the shop and one is given to each household moving into the Village during the year. Although businesses pay for their entries, all local organisations and charities are invited to have a free entry in the Directory. Further details can be obtained from the Clerk.

ALL ENTRIES, INCLUDING THE FEE, MUST REACH PAULINE RAYMOND BY 5PM ON MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY. With limited space, it is not possible to accommodate larger adverts and, once the space has been taken up, adverts may have to be turned away. Don't miss out, please send in your advert as soon as possible.