

PLAYDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Our Parish Council operates at local level within Rother District Council, itself part of East Sussex County Council. Our aim is to work within the Local Government framework, to consult and inform residents of Playden, that any actions taken are generally in accordance with their wishes, to protect and improve the rural environment of Playden and to maintain its identity and independence.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 / 2015

1. The Parish Council Members and Clerk

Mr. David Stone (Chairman), Holmdale House, Peasmarsh Road

Mr. Tony Lenihan, Saltcote Cottage, New England Lane

Mr. Alan Blackham, The Stocks, Saltcote Lane

Mr. Paul Osborne, Military Road

Mr. Ray Harrington-Lowe (Clerk), Griffin Hall, Main Street, Peasmarsh, TN31 6SX

[Tel: 230177](tel:230177) E-mail: rhl.clerk@playden.info

2. Membership

There have been no changes in membership of the Council during the past year.

We are currently short of one Councillor and we would be pleased to hear from anyone within the Parish or nearby who may be interested.

3. Council Meetings

Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the WI Hall Playden at 7.30 pm. Cancellations or alterations of date can be seen on the website www.playden.info and are posted on the notice board at St. Michael's Church entrance. All Playden residents are welcome to attend our meetings, which gives an opportunity to hear about local issues and plans, as well as contributing views and opinions. ESCC County Councillor Keith Glazier and RDC District Councillors Nick Ramus and Paul Osborne regularly attend our meetings.

Nick Ramus is retiring from RDC after 20 years' service. His support of local communities has been unstinting and invaluable, and his presence at our meetings will be greatly missed.

4. Planning

Each meeting has an agenda for any planning matters. Local applications are considered and any comments or objections are passed on to RDC Planning Department.

Most of the applications this year were uncontentious, but to some we passed on comments or objections, usually where the proposed buildings were deemed to cause inconvenience to adjoining properties.

Discussion continues at higher levels with regard to housing needs and new builds, but presently there are no specific requirements for Playden.

5. Highways

Roads continue to pose problems despite considerable work in repairing potholes and sections of resurfacing. An ongoing programme is scheduled to improve the situation.

Pot-holes and problems can be reported on 0345 60 80 193 or on www.eastsussex.gov.org Once again we request all residents please to keep hedges and trees trimmed back from roads and footpaths, and clear autumn leaves where feasible, and thank all who have done so.

6. Liaison

Councillors and the Clerk have attended various meetings and training courses throughout the year. We have good support from the Community Police, and our "No Cold Calling Zone" would appear to have acted as a deterrent to unsolicited callers. Rother Voluntary Action and Here to Help are involved in Playden and adjoining parishes.

7. Accounts

The closing balance at the end of the financial year 2013/2014 is £2179

Once again we have held the precept for this year at £5000. This we feel should be sufficient to meet our projected costs.

8. Web Site

During the past year we have produced a new web site www.playden.info

This is open for parishioners to submit news of forthcoming events, offers easy access to Councillors and shows the Parish Council agenda, minutes and current planning applications.

This has replaced the printed Local Action Plan of 2007 and allows updates, alterations and additions at short notice and minimal cost. We are grateful to local businesses that have provided financial support with their sponsorship.

9. Local Action

Several matters have been attended to with the aim of keeping Playden looking well-tended:

- The telephone box had been allowed to fall into disrepair by BT. They have now re-connected the phone and cleaned the box of fly posters.
- A number of highway signs, Royal Mail letter boxes etc. have been cleaned.
- Playden Parish Council notice board has been completely re-furbished.
- The Playden sign on Rye Hill has been moved across the road to its correct position.
- Work is in hand to replace the 2 dilapidated fingerposts on the Military Road and Houghton Green. We aim to replace these as faithfully as possible, with suitably durable materials, at the lowest cost for the best quality.

10. Butt Field

The trees planted to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are in mainly good health. One had died but has been replaced. The trees have been recently checked and trimmed where needed.

Gates and fencing are secure. A loose footpath sign by the south gate entrance to the field has been re-secured.

As the field is let for grazing sheep, may we stress the importance of ensuring that all gates are firmly closed by those who use them.

10. Access to Information

Please contact the Clerk should you wish to have sight of any documents which can be made available.

11. Conclusion

On behalf of our Council we wish to thank all who have contributed to and supported our activities over the past year, and look forward to seeing you at our Annual Parish Assembly

David Stone

Chairman

Playden Parish Council

May 2015