

# Shorne Parish Council

— Borough of Gravesham —



## THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

November 2020

### Vacancy for a Parish Councillor in Shorne Village Ward

It is with regret that we have to report the resignation of Steve White from his position as Parish Councillor. Steve was only with us from June 2019, but in that time he made a useful contribution to Parish Council business, and it was particularly useful to have a member from Lower Shorne. Regrettably, Steve has found it difficult to combine Parish Council activity with his full time work obligations, and we are sad to lose him. This means that we have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Unless ten electors call for an election, we will look to fill the vacancy by co-opting a suitable candidate. If you are interested in being considered, please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@shorne-parishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@shorne-parishcouncil.org).

### Budget and Precept Setting

At the Finance meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, we reviewed our forecast expenditure for the remainder of this financial year, and set our budget for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Despite a substantial increase to the precept this year, we are still forecasting to exceed our revenue. Part of this forecast overspend will be due to the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park which we hope to complete before the end of this financial year.

This year will see the final payment of the loan taken out ten years ago when the footpath in Forge Lane was extended past Smith's Farm towards Cob Drive. This will reduce our regular outgoings by over £3,000 a year. Nevertheless, it is clear that we can only afford one or two major items of expenditure per year without significantly increasing the precept or seriously depleting our reserves.

For future capital projects, we have identified a number of proposals which we will have to consider in terms of priority and affordability. These include:

- Refurbish or renew play equipment at Shorne Common;
- Modernisation or renewal of bus shelters at Shorne Crossroads;
- Contributions towards reduced speed limits and/or traffic calming in various locations;
- Adult outdoor gym equipment at Michael Gardens.\*

(\*It is worth noting that precept payments from Shorne West make up around a third of the parish's total income, and yet opportunities to invest in Shorne West are few and far between. It is therefore important that the Parish Council gives favourable consideration to any opportunities which add value and make a positive contribution to facilities in Shorne West.)

The Parish Council has decided to apply for a modest, inflation-based increase to the precept for 2021/2022, but it may be necessary to make more substantial increases in future years.

## **Shorne Litter Patrol**

26 local residents braved the elements to take part in our litter patrol on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, plus a number of others who helped to pick litter during the days leading up to and immediately following the event. Over 40 bags of litter were collected, plus a number of miscellaneous items, including a microwave oven! Thank you to all those who took part, it really made the village look clean and tidy!

## **Benches in Shorne Common**

We are pleased to report that the commemorative bench for Theresa Martin, our former clerk, has now been installed. The original bench in Shorne Common is in the process of being cleaned and re-oiled, after being firmly anchored to the ground.

## **Keep Safe on Dark Nights**

Now that British Summer Time has officially ended and the clocks have gone back, residents are reminded to take a torch with them if they venture out late in the day, and where possible to wear something bright. Drivers are requested to take extra care when driving at night through streets and lanes without pavements, and to be aware that pedestrians may be walking in the roadway.

## **Parish Council Meetings in November**

The Parish Council has now resumed its full programme of Council and Committee meetings, albeit these will be held by remote video conferencing on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Planning & Highways Committee

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November - Parish Council (abridged) Meeting

If you wish to attend any of the meetings, please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@shorneparishcouncil.org) for joining instructions.

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions**

Residents are strongly advised to stay up to date and continue to follow the latest precautions published at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and the government advice published at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

If you are able to, please support those more vulnerable residents who may be housebound or unable to collect their prescriptions or get to the shops. If you require help, please contact: <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/coronavirus-guidance/help-and-support>. For urgent needs, Kent County Council's helpline is available 24 hours a day for vulnerable people, telephone 03000 41 92 92.

Bob Lane  
Shorne Parish Council