

Streat Parish Newsletter - August 2016

Welcome to our new Parish Clerk, Liz Bennett. Liz also works for Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council, so is joining us with a wealth of experience. We hope to see many of you at the next meeting at Stonehealed Farm Barn at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 18th October, when you will have the opportunity to meet her. Her contact details are as shown below.

Some thanks. To Steve Turner for his hard work in repairing the noticeboard at the south end of the village.: to Deborah Grubb for carrying out the internal audit of our accounts this year: to Mike Sewell for his excellent work as Co-ordinator for Streat under the National Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and for his help in providing a facility in the church (tea and coffee provided!) for villagers to sit and read the draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan: to Karen Pritty for being our Tree Warden and over-seeing our Common Land: to Karen Pritty, Deborah Grubb and Max Brownrigg for being our street representatives for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan and delivering the circulars which keep us all fully informed. The Committee are extremely grateful to all villagers who give their time and help us in many ways in our efforts to keep the village running smoothly.

Neighbourhood Plan. The six weeks consultation period on the draft Pre-Submission Plan ended on the 26th April, and 19 people read our copy of the draft in the church: amazing interest and support. Full details of all responses to the consultation are available on www.beaconvillagesplan.co.uk. Although a member of the South Downs National Park Authority had sat on the Project Management Group throughout the drafting process, and Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council had been consulted on various matters, in the event, they advised that structurally and in content, the plan needed amendment before submission and certain sites suggested for new housing were unacceptable.. Having analysed all the responses, the re-drafting of the Plan is now well under way, and in the autumn there will be a further consultation, but limited to Housing and Conservation issues Details of this will follow shortly.

Planning Matters. LW/15/0113 Roxborough Farm Bungalow In principle, the Committee had no objection to the release of the agricultural tie. Following further advertisement required by Lewes DC which failed to achieve a realistic offer, a further application for the release of the restriction was made under reference LW/16/0171, and this was allowed in May 2016.

LW/16/0117 Roxborough Farm Conversion and extension of existing outbuildings to create a single dwelling. Since permission for a development was granted in June 2015 under reference LW/15/0371, this part of the site has been sold and revised applications made. The latest, under reference LW/16/0538 is in the consultation period.

LW/16/0212 Roxborough Farm Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two story dwelling. Having inspected the site, the Committee had no objection to this application. Decision awaited.

SDNP/16/02260/HOUS Chealsfield Cottage Erection of single storey extension. Following a site inspection, the Committee had no objection to the application. Permission was granted in July 2016

SDNP/16/03380 Rectory Barn The Old Rectory Alterations and extension to provide living accommodation for a wheelchair user. Having inspected the site, the Committee has not raised any objection. Decision awaited.

Grit Bin. The village currently has two grit, one now on the rise opposite the entrance to Hortons and one opposite Chealsfield Cottage. It is thought a third may be desirable to improve road safety. Your comments and suggestions would be appreciated.

Power Cuts. From September, to report or obtain information on a power cut, a new National Helpline 105 may be called

Rectory Barn and Streat Barn Mission Fund

At our April meeting, our then Church Warden Mike Sewell, reported on the sale of Rectory Barn by the Parochial Church Council ("the PCC"), and confirmed that, after 50% of the profit to which it was entitled had been paid to the diocese, the balance of £154,000 had been paid into an account named "Streat Barn Mission Fund". He was not able to say what the objects of that "Mission" were, but he confirmed that, as Rectory Barn would no longer be available as a village meeting place, in accordance with a Mission Statement in the Bishop's Diocesan Strategy, plans had been drawn up for Streat Church to be upgraded, by the provision of a new access, a kitchen and a W.C., all to disabled user standard. The meeting unanimously confirmed its support for this work to be paid for out of the Mission Fund, but, as the funds for the initial purchase of the Barn had been provided by villagers (mainly from Streat but a few from Westmeston) many of whom were not churchgoers, and as the garden (which was included in the sale) had almost certainly been donated by Mrs. Colt with the whole village in mind, all present unanimously confirmed their strong belief that the balance of Mission Fund should be ring-fenced and held exclusively for the benefit of Streat Church and its churchyard.

As instructed by the meeting, a letter was been written to the Vicar, inquiring as to the objects of the Streat Barn Mission, indicating unanimous support for the proposed works to the church and its future use for community purposes, and asking for the Fund to be ring-fenced and held solely for the benefit of our church, to ensure that a building which has existed on this site in the heart of the village for a millennium, remains to be enjoyed by generations to come.

The reply received simply indicated that our letter had been noted and that we would be advised in due time of the PPC decisions. But copy draft minutes of the meeting at which our letter was discussed, indicated a proposal by the Vicar to use part of the fund "to adopt a candidate who wanted to enter the Church", i.e., not for the specific benefit of Streat Church and not consistent with the wishes of the village as expressed at the April meeting. In the light of this, the Committee has now requested a full reply to our original letter, and asked that we have the opportunity to discuss the use of the Mission Fund with the PCC, before any decisions are made.

Contact Details. Please visit us at www.hugofox.com/community/streat-parish-meeting-7947/about-us.

We send out information to villagers by e-mail wherever possible. To be included in our mailing list, which would help a lot, please contact Liz Bennett, streat.pm@btinternet.com

Chairman: Tony Gedge, Streat Cottage, Streat. BN6 8RU Tel: 01273890110: a_gedge@hotmail.com:

Vice Chairman: Brian Clifford, Chealsfield, Streat Lane, BN6 8RX:

Committee Member: Tim Gaynor : Streat Barn Cottage, Streat Lane, BN6 8RX: tim@hoegh.co.uk

Clerk and RFO: Liz Bennett: Tel: 01444 483018: streat.pm@btinternet.com