

Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council

MAY
2023

Serving the local communities of Ash, Hodsoll Street, New Ash Green & Ridley

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COUNCILLORS...

- Eight vacancies have arisen on Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council; 1 vacancy in Ash Ward, 2 vacancies in New Ash Green South East ward, 3 vacancies in New Ash Green North West ward and 2 vacancies in Hodsoll Street and Ridley ward
- Applications are being sought from eligible* people, suitably qualified to serve.

INFORMATION The Parish Council is involved in most local matters: planning, highways and footpaths. Support for local services and organisations, environmental, crime and quality of life issues.

APPLICATIONS Those persons interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please apply in writing or by email to the Clerk, providing a written statement setting out your work experiences, skillset and what you feel you can bring to the Council. Applications should be received by midday on Friday 9 June 2023.

***ELIGIBILITY** Subject to the rules on disqualification, a person is qualified if they are a qualifying Commonwealth citizen and has attained the age of 18 and:

- (a) on that day they are and thereafter they continue to be a local government elector for the area of the authority; or
- (b) they have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding that day occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in that area; or
- (c) their principal or only place of work during that twelve months has been in that area; or
- (d) they have during the whole of those twelve months resided in that area; or
- (e) they have during the whole of those twelve months resided either in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres of it.

If this is of interest to you, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information on 01474 702760
or email info@acrpc.org.uk

How does a Parish Council work?

Parish Council's are completely apolitical, in that no councillor represents a political party. This helps to ensure there is a 'one team' approach when looking to solve local issues.

Parish Councils operate as a corporate body, therefore no one councillor has the ability to make any decisions alone.

The Parish Council, even with a limited budget, has the ability to

make a positive difference to the local communities we serve.

We have the opportunity to carry out projects and events, we can work in partnership with other bodies like the Village Association, and if it's something the Parish Council can't do itself, we can make representations and lobby organisations that do have the relevant powers.

The Parish Council is keen to ensure all demographics are represented.

Time Commitment

Conscious that everyone has busy lives, the Parish Council has restructured so that going forwards we do not have committees, having monthly Full Council meetings and a Planning Applications Working Group instead. The meetings are:

- **Planning Applications:** 7:45pm start, on first Thursday of month via Teams
- **Full Council:** 7:45pm start, on third Thursday of month held face to face

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.acrpc.org.uk
PARISH CLERK: 01474 702760 EMAIL: info@acrpc.org.uk

Responsibilities of the Parish Council

- Management of Ash Green Sports Centre
- Management of Ash Burial Ground
- Maintenance of Northfield open space (in conjunction with Hartley Parish Council)
- Maintenance of Ash War Memorial. Bowdlers Well (Ridley) and Hodsoll Street Play Area
- Youth Provision including the Summer Holiday scheme
- Provision of Lunch Club for the Over 60s
- To act as a consultee on planning applications received in the parish
- Lobbying Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council and Central Government on issues affecting parish residents
- Health and Wellbeing initiatives
- Community Safety initiatives including multi-agency meetings to tackle crime & ASB
- Organising community projects and events
- Community Grants scheme

Introducing our new Chairman

At the Annual Council Meeting held on Thursday 18 May 2023, the Council elected Cllr Shaun Fishenden as the new Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Fishenden replaces Mike Brown who has served as Chairman of Council for forty-five dedicated years. During this time, the Council has had a number of achievements including opening the Ash Green Sports Centre, taking on the joint management of Northfield and convening regular multi-agency meetings with Kent Police and SDC to discuss and resolve local crime and anti-social behaviour issues. We are eternally grateful to Mike for his years of service to the parish and the positive contribution he has made.

Shaun has served on the Parish Council since September 2020 and is our youngest ever Chairman, taking on the role aged 23!

Shaun works in local government as Clerk to both Meopham and Luddesdown Parish Council's.

Cllr Fishenden comments *"I am excited for the next chapter for the Parish Council. I am keen to see better awareness of the work we do and for us to increase our community engagement. Being a Parish Councillor is an interesting role and there are a lot of opportunities to make a positive difference to the communities we serve"*.

Meetings Open To The Public

Meetings of the Parish Council are required by law, to be open to the public to attend as observers.

The agenda for a meeting is published the week before a meeting and can be found on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council warmly welcomes any member of the public who wishes to attend our meetings to see what we are discussing for the local community.

Dates of some of our upcoming Parish Council meetings:

- **Thursday 15 June 2023** at 7:45pm in Hodsoll Street Village Hall
- **Thursday 20 July 2023** at 7:45pm in New Ash Green Youth & Community Centre
- **Thursday 28 September 2023** at 7:45pm in the VA Meeting Room

Where does the Parish Council budget come from?

Annual Precept £136,324

Annual Cost per Household (Band D) =
£54.90 per year / £1.06 per week

NEW ASH GREEN SOUTH EAST WARD: Cllrs. Roxana Brammer (Vice Chairman), Jill Clucas, Isabel MacLeod, Mark Manley and 2 vacancies

NEW ASH GREEN NORTH WEST WARD: Cllrs. Carol Clark, Shaun Fishenden (Chairman), Sarah Hobbs, and 3 vacancies

ASH WARD: Cllr Jake Scott and 1 vacancy

HODSOLL STREET & RIDLEY WARD: 2 vacancies

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