



Rotherfield Parish Council Newsletter

June/July 2026



Hello and welcome to the Rotherfield July Parish Newsletter on behalf of the newly formed Highways, Recreation and Cemeteries Committee. The newly formed Committee brings together the Recreation and Burials Portfolio and the Highways, Lighting and Transport portfolios. It was decided to merge the two as they have some key overlapping areas, such as footpaths, car parks, lighting, pedestrian access and our road system etc, and with two Co-Chairs with a wealth of experience in their key areas, we believe that merging the two gives us a better opportunity to synchronise our expertise for the benefit of our Parish.

Paul Beach has worked as a Senior Manager in the Transport Industry for over 35 years, and Paul Turner has a wealth of commercial and project management experience so working together we hope to offer a more synchronous approach to some of the projects that the RPC has planned in the near future..... watch this space for more news on that in later editions!



Cllr Paul Turner



Cllr Paul Beach

Both Pauls welcome feedback and ideas from our residents to ensure Rotherfield is a safe, inclusive and pro-active place to live for all of our residents.

Dear Parishioners

We are now midway through Summer and have had some hot days . While formal meetings have decreased there is still a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Adam our Clerk and Fiona his assistant are working hard as are the councillors on varying projects and commitments . If you have any problems concerning the council, please drop in to the Parish Office or contact a councillor our details are on the Parish Council Website.

I would like to wish you all well and hope you enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Kind Regards

Robert Harris
Chair RPC



Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU
Tel: 01892 358240 **Email:** Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hello and welcome to your Summer 2026 Newsletter from Rotherfield Parish Council.

We are racing towards the longest day as I write this introduction, with one heatwave behind us and another looming. The presence of strawberry and cherry stalls in the local lay-bys is a hint that summer is upon us, and the fact that even the occasional showers are warmer is another strong pointer. The clincher, though, at least in our parish, is the presence of the cows on the Millennium Green. Every weekend seems to have at least one fête, fair or country show to visit, steam driven and vintage vehicles (some of which are nearly as old as my jokes) can be seen on our roads and people are beginning to enjoy sitting in gardens when visiting pubs, restaurants and tea rooms. We are fortunate to have some excellent examples in the parish. For those of us who enjoy being outdoors, this is a wonderful time of year.

Your Parish Council has had a busy time since the last newsletter. We held a successful Annual Get Together at the Village Hall and have also had our Annual Meeting, at which the Chairs of the various committees were elected. With Cllr Gosney stepping down, we now have a vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Clerk for more information. Do remember that our meetings are open to the public, and you are always welcome to attend. Members of the public can (after making the chair aware) address the council.

Since the last newsletter, the Parish Council has:

- Re-elected Cllr Robert Harris and Cllr Beverley Johnstone as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.
- Hosted a meeting with Action in Rural Sussex at which the results of the Housing Needs Survey were presented.
- Agreed the maintenance arrangements for the seven bus shelters that are our responsibility.
- Made significant progress on the Pump Track Project, with the full plans expected to be ready for submission for planning permission in mid-July.
- Maintained a 100% record of our recommendations on planning applications matching the decisions made by Wealden Council.

We know that there are still many issues with the roads in our parish. In relation to these:

- The Clerk was instrumental in resolving problems caused by an unscheduled and unauthorised closure of Church Road by UK Power Networks.
- Vehicle speeds in the village remain a concern, and the Council has agreed to purchase a new portable speed-indicating device. We are also looking to hold a meeting with the local Police in order to restart the Speedwatch initiative. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Clerk.
- We are looking to hold a meeting in the village with a senior officer from East Sussex Highways to discuss the repainting of many badly eroded road markings.



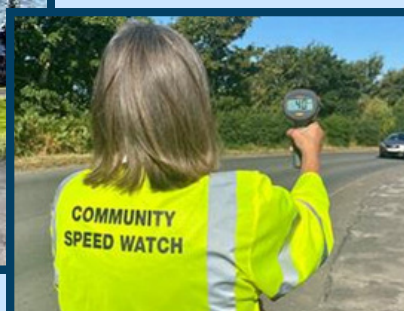
Cllr Paul Snelling
This seasons Editor



Bus Shelters



Pump Track



Speedwatch



Road Markings

Going places as a Councillor

The most frequent place a Parish Councillor goes is to Council meetings or meetings concerned with council business but sometimes we do make more unusual visits. I am therefore reporting on some of these I have attended since the last newsletter was circulated.

Two other councillors and I visited the Crowborough Army camp at the invitation of the Home Office to find out as much as we could first hand. It was a very wet and windy afternoon but we were guided all the way around, under the guidance of Home Office staff. We saw the medical huts, including an isolation unit, one used when needed for new arrivals and the assessment centre. The outside sports facilities (probably from the cadets era) was seen from a distance too wet to be used and closely visited; huts for learning opportunities such as art and English provided by volunteers; a gymnastic hut with most equipment having been donated and a recreation room again with equipment largely donated and provided by Care for Calais. This equipment included ranged from table tennis tables to board games. This area was very full, perhaps because of the foul weather. The men ranged in age from late teens to sixty five with the majority seeming to be in their twenties or thirties. There was a range of nationalities



and languages. We were shown one of the accommodation huts which we were told housed between 8 and 16 each with a basic bed and bedding and a secure locker for storage. Here was no TV but we were told that all the men had mobile phones. We next visited the dining area and kitchens, which were very busy. The dining area was large with (possibly) enough seating for all, but the 3 meals could be eaten at any time during 2 hours slots.



Breakfast was continental with fruit and yoghurt, lunch and supper appeared to be the same, 2 courses, with no choices beyond a vegetarian option, e.g. one meal was beef curry or vegetable curry. There was also a place where snacks could be purchased from their £9 a week allowance. While we were in the dining area there was a cloud burst and it was agreed not to visit other buildings. The provisions were basic, clean, adequate and appeared well organised and well run. In retrospect, the facilities made me think of some youth hostels I had visited or school trip accommodation. (As you know, your parish council is strictly non political, so do not expect any conclusion, for or against but these are my impressions of the visit.)

My second visit was to the Dementia bus hosted by RSM. It was a full afternoon ending in a debrief and was truly awareness raising for all and informative for those working with or having responsibility for people experiencing life with dementia. I will not try to describe the actual dementia bus visit as the point of it is to experience it for yourself, without preparation and prior knowledge.

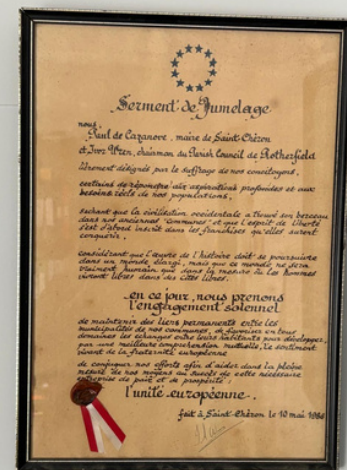


Finally, I have been tasked with producing a suitable large, wooden planter. The closing down of the Twinning Association between Rotherfield and St. Cheron meant that the responsibility for this link now lies with the parish council. The Twinning Association wanted its remaining funds to provide a large planter as a permanent reminder, visible in the parish. It has to be large enough to house the Twinning Association plaque with a written dedication, and enable planting of small, attractive but easily maintained plants. Not as easy as it sounds! Nothing ready made on line suitable so for me this has involved visits to several garden centres to see what they could provide as inspiration.

I have to be honest. In some ways this has been the best of the 3 visits. Why? Well, I insisted that my husband treated me to coffee in each of them. (I'm not sure he agreed with the need though!)

We hope to get the planter installed and planted before the Autumn and it will be sited on the triangle outside of Rotherfield Primary School.

ClI Janice Richardson



In other news.....



Meet Major, our new office assistant.



Our Parish potato, back in June - it has grown quite a bit since then.



The Pride flag flying for the first time in Rotherfield.



Thank you to Sue Martin for planting up the planter at Mark Cross.

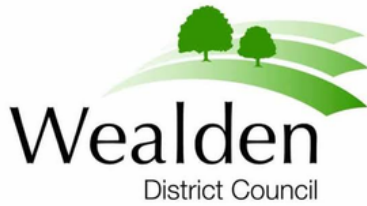


COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

Councillor Name & Ward	Parish Responsibility	Telephone & email
Robert Harris <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Chair of the Council and "Ex officio" member of all Committees	01892 853426 & 07717745787 robert.harris@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Beverley Johnstone <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Vice-Chair of the Council and "Ex Officio" member of all Committees	07729839137 beverley.johnstone@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Paul Beach <i>Mark Cross & Eridge Ward</i>	Co-Chair of Highways, Recreation & Cemeteries Committee	07580036280 paul.beach@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Lucy Buck <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Councillor	01892 852507 lucy.buck@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Benj Cheeseman <i>Mark Cross & Eridge Ward</i>	Vice-Chair of Community & Events Committee.	07342693387 benj.cheeseman@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
David Hiles <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Chair of Planning & Building Committee and Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee	01435 872585 david.hiles@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Emmanuelle Holmes-Cutting <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Councillor	07502319134 emmanuelle.holmes-cutting@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Douglas Johnstone <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Councillor	07905 817986 douglas.johnstone@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Peter Kember <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Vice-Chair of Planning & Building Committee	01892 853555 peter.kember@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Janice Richardson <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Chair of Community & Events Committee.	01892 852867 & 07808840482 janice.richardson@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Paul Snelling <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Councillor	07885 606160 paul.snelling@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Paul Turner <i>Rotherfield Ward</i>	Co-Chair of Highways, Recreation & Cemeteries Committee.	paul.turner@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk .
Vacant <i>Mark Cross & Eridge Ward</i>		
Adam J Hardy	Clerk to Rotherfield Parish Council & Responsible Finance Officer	01892 358240 clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Fiona Wilson	Council Administrator	01892 358240 admin@rotherfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

DISTRICT, COUNTY & PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT DETAILS			
Name	Ward/Division	Area represented	Telephone & email
Michael Lunn	Hadlow Down & Rotherfield Ward	Rotherfield Village & Town Row	07894 062727 cllr.michael.lunn@wealden.gov.uk
Jessika Hulbert	Withyham Ward	Eridge, Boar's Head & Mark Cross	07899 917442 cllr.jessika.hulbert@wealden.gov.uk
Michael Lunn	Wealden North East Division	Rotherfield Village/Town Row	07894 062727 Cllr.michael.lunn@eastsussex.gov.uk
Georgia Taylor	Forest Row and Groombridge Division	Eridge, Boar's Head & Mark Cross	07510 074255 Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk
Nus Ghani MP	Sussex Weald Parliamentary Constituency		020 7219 4619 nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Other useful contact details



Contact Details

Tel: 01323 443333

www.wealden.gov.uk

The District Council is responsible for the provision of

- Planning and Building Control
- Council Tax, Council Tax Benefit and Business Rates
- Environmental Health
- Leisure Services
- Business and Tourism Support
- Housing and Housing Benefit
- Elections
- Land Charges
- Waste Collection and Recycling
- Car Parking



Contact Details

Tel: 0345 6080190

[www..east.sussex.goc.uk](http://www.east.sussex.goc.uk)

East Sussex County Council based in Lewes is responsible for the following services:

- Education
- Libraries
- Trading Standards
- Transport and Traffic Safety
- Adult Social Care
- Waste Disposal
- Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Oversight of the East Sussex Highways contract



Contact Details:

Tel: 0345 60 80 193

www.eastsussexhighways.com

East Sussex Highways delivers highways maintenance and improvement schemes on behalf of East Sussex County Council. These include:

- Repair and maintain most roads and pavements in East Sussex
- Provide and maintain traffic lights, streetlights, road signs, bridges and other structures
- Maintenance of road drainage systems, gullies and ditches
- Maintain roadside verges, hedges and trees

Where Every Older Person Matters

Rural Transport Matters



Have you given up driving or longer have a car? Do you find it difficult to get to local destinations, even as local as Crowborough? Perhaps you need to get further afield for a medical appointment.

We have a team of volunteer drivers to get our members to all our clubs and to appointments. We are also exploring a shopping service with Wealdlink and have met with them recently to discuss their service routes and their timetables.

We would love to hear from you

If you would be interested in a weekly door to door shopping service

If you would like to be a volunteer driver for RSM



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@RSMCENTRE



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