



## Chair's Monthly Newsletter – February 2023

We are pleased that our last newsletter has generated some interest in joining the Parish Council and if you would like to know more, but haven't yet been in touch, please do contact us. The District, Town and Parish Council elections that take place every four years are being held in May this year but do also be aware that, if you are planning to vote in person at these elections, you will now need to show photo ID. You can find more [details on the elections](#) by visiting Arun District Council's website.

Unfortunately, there is a national shortage of people willing to stand as councillors, reflected in the level of uncontested elections throughout Hampshire, East Sussex and West Sussex, in 2015 and 2019. This has prompted a campaign to encourage people to step forward with quite an interesting promotional video featuring Jackie Weaver! A light-hearted approach but with an important message highlighting the role of Parish Councils as the lowest tier of government. The [clip](#) is on YouTube and also on our website too.

The parish precept for 2023/2024 was confirmed at our meeting in December to maintain our current level of services for the parish in times of high inflation and raising energy costs. Disappointingly, however, despite a strong application for National Lottery funding to replace the ageing play equipment, we lost out to other charitable causes. We have also been advised that playground equipment is now much less likely to be prioritised for their support. So, whilst we will continue to look out for other opportunities, there may be some difficult choices with some equipment being over 40 years old. Community fundraising is another option and, as we already have some offers of support, this is something that we will be exploring too.

Concerns over the perennial problem of parking in the village itself has been the theme of public sessions on several occasions recently. Slindon attracts so many visitors – and of course their cars - with its wonderful walks and excellent café. Parking is sometimes difficult to manage.

Please do remind visiting contractors to park with care so that other vehicles can pass safely. If you are expecting sizeable deliveries too, ask their drivers not to block or park opposite driveways or on grass verges. Inconsiderate parking is more often than not entirely unintentional, so a gentle reminder is always encouraged where possible.

We are delighted to report that, with Mary's blessing, the tree planted by the John Moor seat which fell victim to Storm Eunice, has now been replaced. It is a disease resistant elm, donated by the South Downs National Park and planted by our ever-helpful Ranger, Simon Mockford. Very sadly Simon, who also played a key role in our pond restoration project and has worked so closely with us on various projects, is retiring at the end of March. We take this opportunity to wish him well for the future.

*Jan Rees, Chair, for Slindon Parish Council*