



Chair's April Newsletter

Following nominations for the Town and Parish Council Elections this May, the Returning Officer has confirmed those individuals who can take office at the Annual Meeting of the Council next month. In common with most other parishes in Arun, we have had what is known as an uncontested election where the number of nominations was less than the number of seats. We are currently taking guidance from the Monitoring Officer at Arun on possibly reducing the number of seats as there are some advantages to this.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place on Thursday 25th May, when we will be welcoming our MP, and also hear from a number of organisations and groups in the village. We also plan to share more details on the Parish Priority Statement, which those within the South Downs National Park are being invited to complete, as one of the ways in which town and parish councils can contribute to the Local Plan Review.

We are continuing to explore opportunities for grant funding for the playground and also the Recreation Ground and sports pavilion, so if you have any ideas for community fund-raising or would like to get involved please get in touch.

At the moment, building on our original idea, we are now collaborating with the South Downs National Park and the National Trust to provide an interpretation board at the pond, in the design below. The lectern will incorporate Slindon oak, the legs being milled by the National Trust and will be funded by the National Trust and the National Park. The board will provide information on the history of the pond, its restoration and biodiversity and of its formal woodland setting, 'The Bellows' as part of the wider Slindon Estate.



We continue to work on our audit, the internal assessment being undertaken by an independent auditor this month with details submitted for an external audit by the end of June. The process will be completed by the end of September.

As the weather improves we look forward to welcoming you to future meetings and hope that you will be able to join us for the Annual Meeting of the Parish. An opportunity to catch up on parish matters and enjoy a pleasant evening with good company and of course some refreshments provided by the Forge!

Jan Rees, Chair, for Slindon Parish Council