

PARISH of EAST PECKHAM

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that **MRS EDDIE KEMSLEY** formerly a member of the above Parish Council has ceased to be a member and that a casual vacancy exists in the office of Councillor for the said Parish.

On receipt of a request in writing from any ten local government electors for East Peckham, an election to fill the vacancy will be held within sixty days. If no such request is made the vacancy will be filled by the Parish Council.

Requests for such an election should be addressed to **The Returning Officer, at the office of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ** to arrive not later than fourteen days from the date of this notice (computed in accordance with Rule 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 1986).

DATE 21 May 2013

SIGNED *Karen Bell*

Clerk to the Council, the Proper Officer for this purpose

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 8

01 May 2013

This newsletter focuses on our activities over the past month as well as providing useful and relevant information. Feedback good or bad is appreciated so please do tell us what you think.

COMMUNICATIONS: We are striving to improve communication. As well as regularly looking at our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk did you know that you can receive the newsletter by email? If you would like to receive this newsletter by email then do let us know.

SURGERIES: Every month we hold a surgery in the Library. The date of the next surgery is 08 May 2013 between 10.30 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. when Cllr. Mrs. Lorraine Baseden will be on duty; also in attendance will be Paul Harfleet our Community Warden, our PCSO's and a representative from the Paddock Wood Community Advice Service.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Thank you to all those who attended the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting, we hope you enjoyed the evening. The minutes from the meeting have been prepared and are available on our website. Here are a few matters of interest:

Guest Speaker: Appreciation has been sent to Mr. David Brazier, the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Waste and the Environment for being this year's guest speaker. Mr. Brazier gave an hour long presentation promoting the achievements of KCC's Highways department and spoke enthusiastically about new plans for Kent Waste collection, KCC's record for filling in potholes in 14 days and revealed that the department was responsible for 11 million square metres of grass along verges. However the presentation delivered was not the one requested as we were expecting a presentation on issues local to East Peckham and those likely to affect residents of East Peckham. A view which was expressed at the meeting by more than one exasperated resident.

During question time a resident raised the issue of the traffic calming scheme in Hale Street and a show of hands at the meeting revealed unanimous support for the removal of the traffic calming scheme; post meeting Mr. Matthew Balfour (Borough Councillor and possible County Councillor) contacted us and offered his support and promised that he would do all he could to resolve the problem.

The Parish Council has considered whether it is necessary to have a guest speaker, on balance it is felt that we have had some excellent guest speakers in previous years and it worth considering again for 2014. However there will be some changes for the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting these are as follows:

- The guest speaker will be time limited to 20 minutes to talk about a local and relevant topic.
- The 2014 Annual Parish Meeting will be held in late May.
- The 2014 Annual Report will be circulated between the end of April and the Middle of May and will include the 2013/2014 accounts.

STREETLIGHTS: We can report that a concrete street light column has collapsed in Crown Acres. Fortunately it did not strike property, animals or people and our grateful thanks have been extended to Kent Highway Services who attended immediately to remove the debris and fill in the hole. We are now in the process of considering the replacement of the concrete columns with aluminium ones. Our lighting contractor has been asked to inspect the entire lighting stock for which we are responsible for; subject to the findings of the inspection report we will embark upon a programme of removing the concrete pillars followed by the installation of aluminium columns. This work is not going to be cheap, we have been quoted the sum of £755 plus installation charges for the installation of one aluminium column, but health and safety has to take a priority in this respect. If you know of any concrete streetlight columns which need urgent attention, please let us know so that we can take immediate action.

ALLOTMENTS: There are currently no vacant plots however we have opened up a waiting list. If you are interested in having an allotment please contact our Clerk who will add your name to our waiting list.

PLANNING: During April we considered the following planning applications:

TM/13/00652/FL

Single storey front extension and single storey rear extensions linking to the existing garage at 15 Bramley Road, East Peckham

NO OBJECTION

- TM/13/00873/FL** Garage conversion to bedroom at 24 Russett Road, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION
- TM/13/00878/FL** Convert existing garage into a room. Remove main p and over garage door and install a window with brick wall below window at 3 Strettitt Gardens
NO OBJECTION
- TM/13/00486/LB** Single storey side extension for study/library use with attic accommodation to southwest elevation at Dawes Cottage, 165 Bullen Lane, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION
- TM/13/01085/FL** Construction of a single-storey full-width extension at the rear of the existing house at Bush House, 289 Bullen Lane, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION
- TM/13/00565/LB** Sky TV satellite dish at Yew Tree Cottage, 437 Bells Farm Road, Hadlow
NOTED/NO OBJECTION
- TM/13/00626/FL** Variation of condition 6 of TM/11/01086/FL: (Two storey side extension (rationalisation and alterations to previously approved scheme)) to provide a restricted side hung window on the southern elevation in place of a top hung light obscured glazed windows at Orchard Cottage, 172 Hale Street
NOTED

PLANNING DECISIONS: TMBC HAD NO OBJECTION to the following:

- TM/13/00366/TNCA** Fell 3 Silver Birch trees growing very close to each other retaining the largest of 4 Silver Birches at 9 Addlestead Road, East Peckham

LICENCE APPLICATIONS: During the month we received details of two licence applications:

The Hop Farm: The closing date for the receipt of representations to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council was 24 April 2013; the Parish Council has submitted the following statement,

“East Peckham Parish Council broadly supported the Hop Farm and believed this it was in the interests of the community for the Hop Farm to be a profitable active business, well run and supportive of local employment.

East Peckham Parish Council took the view that the new management team **MUST** take cognizance of the views and concerns of the East Peckham residents and establish a regular, active and meaningful dialogue with the local residents group with face to face meetings.

East Peckham Parish Council took the view that the noise levels at specific music and other entertainment events throughout the year **MUST** be monitored and controlled in accordance with the conditions imposed by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council within the licence. In addition, robust and effective mechanisms **MUST** be in place during such music and other entertainment events in order to ensure compliance with proscribed noise limits.”

The Harp: An application has been submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for a sexual entertainment venue licence. The days and hours of operation which have been applied for are Monday - Sundays inclusive from 12.00 - 24.00 hours. If you would like to comment on this application then representations are to be received by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council by 10 May 2013.

POST OFFICE RELOCATON: Confirmation has been received that the Post Office will be proceeding with their proposal to move the Post Office to Orchard Road where it will operate as one of the new local style Post Office branches. The date of relocation has yet to be confirmed. The Parish Council has advised Royal Mail of their obligation to supply a post box for the new post office.

BRANBRIDGES ROAD LATEST UPDATE

Rose & Crown Public House: Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has at last, had a face to face contact with the owners to start the process of trying to find a long term solution for the future of the site. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has also been informed that English Heritage has received a formal proposal to delist the building. In those circumstances, with the first vestiges of forward movement, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council thought it not appropriate to serve formal notice on the owners re: the rubble, at this time. The Borough Council has discussed alternative options with them for the clearance whilst not making the car park vulnerable to incursions.

Mobile Home: No new information has been received.

NEW VILLAGE SIGNS: Our three specially commissioned village signs to mark the twinning of East Peckham and Chereng are due to be installed during May. You might want to look out for them at the following locations; Tonbridge Road (Just after Pierce Mill Lane), Just off Boyle Way, grass verge on the left on the approach into Branbridges Road and Hale Street, opposite the Farm House, Boroughs Oak.

TWINNING: On 18 May approximately 60 residents from Chereng will be visiting and activities arranged include a visit to Hever Castle, a Bat and Trap event at the Bush Blackbird and Thrush where there will also be a performance by the Hartley Morris Men followed by an evening meal. You are welcome to come to the Bush, Blackbird and Thrush from 4.00 p.m. to meet our French friends and join in the activities planned. If you are interested in any aspect of the Twinning, please contact the secretary of the Twinning Association by sending an email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

DOG FOULING: There is still a problem of dog fouling within the village. This is not only a problem to children and walkers but to the football club who use the playing fields. Please ensure that you pick up after your dog and do not allow them off the lead if children are playing or a football match is taking place. The Parish Council does not believe anybody, should have to clear up other people's dogs and it is very sad that a section of our community do not value our open spaces. We would urge you to notify us, TMBC's dog warden or the community warden if you witness any incidents of dog fouling. Subject to availability, we do have dog bags in the parish office which we provide free of charge.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS: We are fortunate in East Peckham to have some splendid halls including our own Jubilee Hall which comprises a Sports Hall and separate Meeting Room. These are your facilities and we want you to enjoy using them. Activities which take place each week include keep fit, Zumba, French classes (Beginners), gym, East Peckham and Hadlow Children's Centre, Tai Chi, badminton, bowls, Mini Music Makers, Parent & Toddler group and a monthly Carers Group. Our football pitches are used by The East Peckham Junior Football team and we also have super fitness equipment and play equipment for children of all ages. If you are looking for a venue for an activity such as a sports event, book club, birthday party or a meeting then please contact our Clerk who will provide details of availability and can arrange for you to have a tour of the facilities.

We have installed two vending machines which you are welcome to use when the hall and/or office are open. The machine in the lobby dispenses cold drinks and snacks while the machine in the meeting room dispenses hot drinks. The prices of the vended items have been set not to make a profit but to cover the hire costs of the machines and the vended products. Wi-Fi access is also now available.

We are aware of the anti-social behavioural issues currently taking place in the Jubilee Hall Park and we are liaising with the Community Warden and the village PCSO's who are monitoring the situation. The anti-social behavioural use of the car park is becoming worse to the effect that nearby residents are being detrimentally affected. Our janitorial team are undertaking more litter clearing of the car park and the CCTV system which will shortly be upgraded will hopefully act as a deterrent.

HIGHWAYS: Potholes and other highway problem such as blocked gully's can be reported on the website http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/highway_maintenance/fault_reporting.aspx. If you need to report an emergency situation (something which is likely to cause injury or an accident) do not

report the problem online but call them straight away on 08458 247 800, the lines are open 24/7. An emergency might include damage to highway equipment such as streetlights with live wires exposed, highway flooding affecting properties and large potholes on high speed roads.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: If you have encountered a problem on one or more Public Rights of Way in Kent, please report it to Public Rights of Way who will assess the problem according to their Management Priorities and proceed accordingly. Contact details are as follows:

- Call us on 0845 345 0210. (Lines open 8am - 8pm Monday - Friday).
- Outside of these hours, if you think the fault you are reporting is an emergency, please call 0300 333 5538.
- Or use the online fault reporting tool on Kent County Councils website

BULKY REFUSE: The Borough Council's trialling of the collection of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and scrap metal items from the Saturday bulky service has been extended. As of Saturday 20 April, all sites on the Saturday bulky service will now have separate collections of WEEE & scrap metal items at the same time as Veolia's vehicles are on site. Items collected will be stripped down into their component materials and recycled. This trial is currently scheduled to run until March 2014 and will be reviewed nearer that time to assess its effectiveness and sustainability.

CRIME PREVENTION: Public communication remains an important part of crime prevention and a contact directory is available to join in order to receive electronic updates – the link is <http://www.kent.police.uk/enews>. New crime prevention guides are available at http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/personal/your_guide.html. It doesn't matter what the crime is, please report it either to our local PCSO on 101 or contact the Community Warden Paul Harfleet.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 08 May 2013 | Meet Parish Councillor Lorraine Baseden at the Parish Council Surgery in the Library 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. |
| 13 May 2013 | Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by a Planning Committee. 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall. |
| 20 May 2013 | Planning Committee, 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall |

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL: Clerk to the Council, Mrs. K Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5BT, Telephone & answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Office is located in the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham and is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. If you would like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively you may contact a Councillor via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

If you would like a copy of the newsletter in a different format please let us know. We will do our best to accommodate any requests.