

## Introducing Grimstead Parish Council

Here is a short introduction to the Councillors

**Gwynneth Doran** ([gwyn.doran@googlemail.com](mailto:gwyn.doran@googlemail.com))

I live at Church Cottage, West Grimstead with my husband Frank and Harry our border terrier. We have lived here for about 15 years and love village life in the Grimsteads. I like taking part and helping with village events and I am a founder member of the Walking Group and the Play Reading Group. I am particularly in the maintenance of village footpaths and road safety. I have been instrumental in constructing the Circular Footpath and the Petanque area in the Playing Field.

**Gill Sowerby** ([gillsowerby@aol.com](mailto:gillsowerby@aol.com))

I am married with four boys and four grandchildren and have lived in East Grimstead for 33 years. I have taken part in village and school life over the years and am now ready to serve the villages at local council level.

**Rosemary Clark** ([rosemary.clark157@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemary.clark157@btinternet.com))

My family has farmed and I have lived at Emmots Farm in West Grimstead for three generations. My Grandfather and Uncle both served on the Parish Council and I have done so for 30 years. I am interested in all aspects of the Parish Council and I am very keen to see our playing fields well maintained and used by our residents.

**Eric Daffern** ([esdaffern@aol.com](mailto:esdaffern@aol.com))

I bring 56 years of work experience to the parish council. I became a Chartered Public Finance Accountant many years ago and worked in local government for six years before broadening my experience through working in the energy sector and then in international development and international finance. Since moving back to the UK I have had spells with neighbourhood watch and as parish councillor and council chairman. I hope this experience benefits the village.

**Rosie Wilkinson** ([rosiejwilkinson@gmail.com](mailto:rosiejwilkinson@gmail.com))

I moved to East Grimstead several years ago and love the tranquillity and beauty of the Wiltshire countryside.

In my previous life (before children) I was a corporate fundraising professional. My most memorable role was Sponsorship Manager for England Rugby based at Twickenham. I also worked in the arts sector raising money for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall, Hayward Gallery and Richmond Theatre. I enjoy contributing to village life and set up Grim Coffee (now Soup) to support the elderly in our community who live alone and can feel isolated. I am a Trustee and the Treasurer of Farley Fox playground, and also a member of East Grimstead Reading Room Committee.

**Ross Christie** ([rrosschristie@aol.com](mailto:rrosschristie@aol.com))

I have lived with my family at Butter Furlong Farmhouse in West Grimstead for 20 years. As a Chartered Land Surveyor and keen photographer I enjoy walking through the Grimsteads and surrounding villages and want to ensure that rights of access are maintained, if not improved, to benefit our community. I also want to encourage more dialogue between parishioners and the parish council, to help the council properly represent residents.

**Liz Bayford** ([grimsteadpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:grimsteadpcclerk@gmail.com))

I am married with three children and five grandchildren and have lived in West Grimstead for almost 50 years. During that time we have been very involved with village life especially with the Church. Golf is my main hobby.

### A Brief Introduction to the Parish Council Overview

There are 9,000 local councils (parish and town) in England. Over 16 million people live in communities served by local councils which is around 25% of the population, and about 80,000 councillors serve on these councils.

It is calculated £1 billion is invested in these communities every year. Local councils work to improve community well-being and provide better services at a local level. They are therefore the tier of Local Government, which is closest to all of us as residents.

### Funding

Parish Councils receive funding by levying a “precept” on the Council Tax paid by the residents of the parish. Parish Councils comprise unpaid Councillors’ who are elected to serve for four years. You can see how much money is allocated on your Council Tax statements. This money can only be used to undertake projects and cover the kind of works described below.

### Scope of involvement

Parish Councils activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons and open spaces, community transport schemes, community safety and crime reduction measures, events and festivals, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, planning, street cleaning, traffic calming measures and village greens. Each of these services is delivered under the auspices of a piece of legislations that defines the powers and duties of the Parish Council.