

Introducing Grimstead Parish Council

Here is a brief 'bio' of the current serving members:

Rosemary, Gill, Eric, Gwynn Graeme and Liz.

Gwynneth Doran (gwyn.doran@googlemail.com)

I live at Church Cottage, West Grimstead with my husband Frank and Basil our border terrier. We have lived here for about 12 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 one of the new Parish Councillors and very keen to hear your views. I am interested particularly in the maintenance of village footpaths and road safety.

Gill Sowerby (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)

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)

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.

Graeme Winser (winsers@btinternet.com)

I moved into West Grimstead exactly a year ago, along with my wife Sally, daughters Sophie and Pip, grumpy terrier called Flinders and two goats. We don't talk about the chickens because we have foxes in the Parish!

We live at Rowden's Farm, in the heart of West Grimstead and can be recognised currently by a lot of scaffolding. I am a Chartered Surveyor, hence keen on old buildings, planning matters and as a family we intend to 'stick around', hence wanting to get involved in the Village scene and well-being.

Liz Bayford (grimsteadpcclerk@gmail.com)

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

A Brief introduction to the PC

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 councilors 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 (for example for financial year 2015/16 a band "D" household's contribution will be £42)

This money can only be used to undertake projects and cover the kind of works described below.

Scope of involvement

PC's activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well being.

Local councils can provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local 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 legislation that defines the powers and duties of the PC.