

Annual Report and Directory 2023



Please, wear red
white and blue!
Children's activities
and Entertainment
for all ages.



Cream tea on
the Green



Sedlescombe Celebrates The Coronation of His Majesty The King

Sunday the 7th May 2.30-4.30pm

On the Village Green In Sedlescombe

For more information or if you would like to help
please, contact Jackie on 07765 710337 or
Cllr.Saull-hunt@sedlescombe.org.uk

Reissued in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012



Welcome to Sedlescombe



Twenty-first century Sedlescombe is a lively village with a thriving primary school, a village hall, sports grounds, churches and a variety of local voluntary organisations and societies. A selection of interesting businesses are centred in the village.

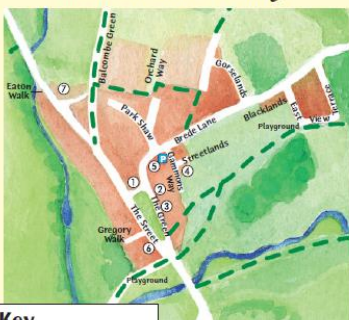


Sedlescombe's past industries include iron-working, charcoal burning, gunpowder manufacture, leather production and farming.



Sedlescombe has a wealth of public rights of way marked on the map by dashed lines.

Sedlescombe Village



- Key**
- ① Brickwall Hotel
 - ② Queens Head
 - ③ Post office and shop
 - ④ Primary school
 - ⑤ Doctor's surgery
 - ⑥ Bridge Garage Antiques
 - ⑦ Village Hall
 - Ⓜ Car park and toilet

Produced by Sedlescombe Parish Council.



Traveline 0871 200 22 33

Nearby attractions include Battle Abbey, 3 miles and Bodiam Castle, 7 miles. Visits can easily be made to historic Rye, 12 miles and the seaside town of Hastings, 7 miles.

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Parish Council Chairman's Introduction

The Parish Council has been able to get on with a number of projects in the last year. I'd like to thank our Parish Clerk Jackie Scarff for making these projects happen on top of her regular work and at the same time congratulate her on achieving CiLCA status which is an important qualification for a clerk and gives the Parish Council direct benefits in what it is allowed to do.

The new equipment at the Children's Playground was installed and has been a great success. It includes new features like a zip wire which has met with enthusiasm from lots of our village children. Paths have also been installed so the area can be used in winter without 'the mud' problems of the past. Thank you to Cllr. Beverly Coupar who made this project happen.

The kickabout area at East View Terrace has been resurfaced and will be relined when the ground dries after winter.

The speed reduction and traffic calming project is slowly but surely getting there with the design now approved by the Highways department.

My own project to get a large number of houses connected to ultra-fast fibre to home broadband is close to connection. This covers houses from Hawkhurst road, Hurst Lane, Churchland lane, Balcombe Green, Blacklands and parts of East View Terrace and along Brede Lane out to the reservoir. Soon they will all benefit from up to 1 Gigabyte download speed transforming their internet connections.

A new application for housing on Street Farm has been received and is currently being assessed by Rother planners. The land was given approval for 16 houses despite considerable opposition by residents and the Parish Council. The new application is for 21 houses so will need even greater consideration.

We will commence the review and update of our Neighbourhood Plan this year. The Parish Council joined many other Parishes across Rother and the country is declaring a climate and environmental emergency so we can expect some policies in the update to address this as well as a dark skies policy.

Pestalozzi is up for sale again after PGL failed to get planning permission for the site. The Parish Council will keep a close eye on progress here.

Sadly, we have lost the car sales business which operated very quietly and we hope another quiet business will take over the site to avoid it becoming derelict.

Last year also marked the Queen's Jubilee which we celebrated on The Green and was a great success. I'd like to thank Cllr. Pauline Glew for arranging that event. Sadly, this was followed by the Queen's Passing.

Last but certainly not least there will be a celebration on The Green to mark the Coronation of the King. This will be in early May with details to follow.

I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome Cllr. Lindy Latrelle who has joined the Parish Council. Lindy was already a great volunteer in our community. Can I also extend my thanks to all the Parish Councillors and village volunteers who give so much time doing much work which contributes to the Village but often goes un-noticed.



Jonathan Vine-Hall

Chairman Sedlescombe Parish Council

Cllr.vine-hall@sedlescombe.org.uk

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Traffic Calming Project update at the Annual Assembly



Come and find out the latest, there will be a chance to ask questions.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

This area is managed by the Parish Council on behalf of the Sedlescombe Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Trust. Any ball game can be played on the MUGA and the general public use will remain free. Group bookings or commercial use should be booked through the Parish Clerk. **The cost for 2023 is £12 per hour.** Please note there is no parking on the site.

Please park in the road or in the public car park a short distance away in Brede Lane.
(Public toilets are also available here)



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About Us

Situated in the Heart of the Beautiful & Idyllic Village of Sedlescombe, This 15th Century Pub Exudes Character & Charm with it's Exposed Beams & Large Open Fireplaces.

Enjoy Delicious Locally Sourced Food by The Roaring Fire, or on a Finer Day Sit Back & Relax Our Beer Garden.

The 2023 Sedlescombe Annual Parish Assembly will take place Wednesday 17th May at 7pm in Sedlescombe Village Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the Parish which the public can participate in. It is NOT a Meeting of the Parish Council.

Anyone may attend but only registered electors of the Parish may speak.

The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

Doors open at 6.30pm

You will have an opportunity to view tables displayed by local businesses and organisations.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A DISPLAY TABLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK ON 07531 065 469 or clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk

**There will be a free prize draw for those attending
and for Parish Council volunteers.**

I hereby give notice that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at Sedlescombe Village Hall ,7pm. Local Government Act 1972 c 70 Sch 12 part III.

Agenda

1. Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022
3. Reports from the groups and organisations of Sedlescombe.
4. Report of the Parish Council Chairman
5. Electors' question and answer session with County & District Cllr. Carl Maynard, District & Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall

Signed

Jonathan Vine-Hall

Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council

At the end of the business part of the meeting you are invited to circulate around the hall to meet Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors and local organisations and businesses.

The 2023 Annual Report & Directory is published by
Sedlescombe Parish Council

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🌐: www.sedlescombe.org.uk



Sedlescombe Annual Parish Assembly

held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 19:00 in Sedlescombe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm

Item	Agenda Item
	<p>PRESENT: Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall Chair Of the Meeting, Chair of Sedlescombe Parish Council & Rother District Councillor. Parish Councillors Sally Sidgwick; Roy Chapman, David Caney, Jackie Saull-Hunt Jackie Scarff (Clerk / RFO of Sedlescombe Parish Council). 72 residents were present at the meeting.</p>
1	<p>Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence.</p> <p>The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, which is the first since 2019 due to the global pandemic. For Health and Safety purposes he pointed out the emergency exits in the Village Hall plus the Mustering points outside. The audience was advised that it was proposed that the meeting was to be recorded and the Chairman. No objections were indicated.</p> <p>Apologies Received. Pauline Glew, who has never missed an Annual Assembly, Nikki Moore and Beverley Coupar had sent their apologies.</p> <p>Thankyous were extended to groups and individuals who had given their time over the last 2 years. First to Peter Anson who has retired as a Parish Councillor just recently after many years of service. The Chairman extended thanks Peter for all the work he did during that time.</p> <p>The Chairman took a moment to remember a dear friend and Parish Councillor Andy Waters, known by so many in the village and who sadly passed away since the last Assembly in 2019. He was an enormous contributor to the village.</p> <p>There are many representatives from groups and societies and they were thanked for coming to the meeting. The Chairman thanked the Brickwall Hotel and James of the Queens Head who provided the prizes for the door prize and our volunteer prize.</p>
2	<p>Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th March 2019</p> <p>It was proposed by R Chapman and seconded by D Caney to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th March 2019.</p>
3	<p>Introduction to the evening's proceedings.</p> <p>The audience will hear from students from Sedlescombe Primary School who are going to read stories and poems.</p> <p>Charlotte Williams, a Claverham Student, who will be talking to us about what she's been doing in the last couple of years. She's presented regularly at the Annual Assembly.</p> <p>Dave Caney, who has been managing the traffic calming project, will be presenting the current situation. If you haven't filled in one of the consultation forms there are consultation forms available so that you can let the council know what you think about the proposals.</p> <p>Beverley Coupar would have been presenting the update on the children's playground, which she has led, but is unfortunately ill, so Jackie Saull-Hunt will present assisted by Vicky who has also worked tirelessly on the project.</p> <p>There will be a section for questions and answers as well as questions and answers during those two presentations.</p> <p>Marie and Peter from the Chapel on the Hill will give an update on the work they have done at the Church since they joined.</p> <p>The Chairman highlighted that the Parish Council took back the management of the sports field and so there's</p>

been a lot of work done, he extended thanks to Peter Anson who did a lot of work on that project.

He also shared that Demi Georghiou, who was the PCSO for many years, performed, with his daughter and other members of his group, on Britain's Got Talent about two weeks ago and was selected to go forward. Their performance is available to see on YouTube.

The Chairman invited the students from Sedlescombe Primary School to the stage.

Winnie.

'The bear and the piano. - Once upon a time in a faraway land a forest was found. One day a little bear cub found a mysterious object. It was big for the bear cub. He gently tapped a paw on it. It made an awful sound. The next day he went to it again and again every day. As the year passed, the bear cub was no longer a bear cub, he was a grown-up bear. One day when the bear went for a walk, it was super snowy. He had so much fun, he forgot about the strange object. The next day he remembered the object. He learnt to play it. One day a girl and her father said to the bear, come to the city with us, but the bear loved his strange object so much he decided to stay and the noise it made was now no longer awful but beautiful. He decided he would call the object a piano. The end.'

Sophie. - *'My name is Sophie and I'm in Year 3 at Sedlescombe Primary School. I'd like to tell you a bit about our school. Early in the morning, if you find yourself on Gammons Way, you'll find the school children queuing and waiting to start their day. Everyone is keen to get through the gates. The teacher opens them with a smile and we all run in unless you're late. Hanging up coats, putting bags in drawers, everything has a place, I think that's one of the school laws.*

The school day begins with English and maths. The lessons can be fun and you'll often hear laughs. The children in Reception are learning to read. They learn letters and sounds until at playtime they are free. In the playground we play with wonderful things using our imagination, playing football or maybe having a sing. Back in the class we do topic work, it changes each term, geography, history, RE, these are some of the things we learn. But it isn't just these things which are important at our school. Being kind and respectful is also taught to be cool. Our teachers encourage us to do our best and be helpful, to work hard and to listen, whether you're big or small.

When the time comes to say goodbye at the end of Year 6, we've grown so much and made good friends. And this is Sedlescombe School's trick. They've taught us with love and smiles in every way, so we are ready to move on and happily remember each day, the friendships we've made, the school trips we've had, we look back with fondness and feel a little sad that a new group of children have taken our place. You'll hear their laughter each day, that's bound to be the case. So, thank you everyone at Sedlescombe School, our time spent with you has been terribly cool.'

The Chairman thanked the students for their wonderful stories which showcase the village primary school and introduced Charlotte Williams who will talk about her Duke of Edinburgh Award experience.

Charlotte Williams - *'D of E experience. Let me introduce myself. I'm Charlotte Williams, 15 years of age. You may know me as John Cook's granddaughter. I've been offered the opportunity to speak about my Duke of Edinburgh experience.*

First of all, what is D of E? It is a youth programme founded in the United Kingdom in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, that has since expanded to 144 nations. D of E is a life-changing experience, a fun time with friends and an opportunity to discover new interests and talents, also a tool to develop essential skills for life and work. It is a recognised mark of achievement respected by employers.

14 to 24-year-olds can do a D of E programme at one of the three progressive levels which when successfully completed leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are four sections to be completed at Bronze and Silver and then five at Gold. They involve helping the community, environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training and completing an expedition and, for Gold only. working with a team on a residential activity.

D of E Bronze. Last year in September me and others doing D of E set off walking the Seven Sisters in South Downs. We did a total of 35 miles across two days, including one night camping. I made many memories and had a lot of laughs whilst also trying to get through the day because we were all so tired. My feet were in a lot of pain as well as my back, but with a lot of motivation we got through the two days with smiles as we came down the hill greeted by our parents and teachers. The whole walk is done independently in groups of around six. All you are given is a map, compass and a rough idea of where to go.

D of E Silver. For Silver you have to go on a practice expedition which we did at Dartmoor, the Okehampton Army Camp, for five days. This was a seven-hour journey on a mini bus with the others doing the expedition. When we got there, we spent the first night in Army barracks and had a good night's sleep ready for the first day of walking. On our first day we walked 17km, we were supposed to stay in the barracks again, but our teachers made us sleep in tents which most of us weren't very happy about.

Then it was for the actual practice, which was two days of walking, eating rationed foods and sleeping in tents. Over the two days we walked a total of 44km which I can't lie to you it was very hard. I was in a lot of pain and pulled my calf on the last day of walking which was a struggle to deal with when trying to complete a walk. I have many stories about being in Dartmoor, but that can be for another day. Overall, it was a hard experience, but we all felt very proud of ourselves after finishing the walk.

This training is linked to the Ten Tors event. Ten Tors is an annual weekend hike in early May on Dartmoor, South West England. Organised by the British Army starting in 1960, it brings together teams of six young people, with the 2,400 young participants hiking to checkpoints on ten specific tors. Unfortunately, I couldn't put myself up to do the competition, as it was my mum's birthday which I felt was way more important. Also, it gave a space for the other people who really wanted to do the Ten Tors event and a chance to be on the two teams of six.

For Silver I completed six months of volunteering where I helped out my local football club with setting up warm-ups, goals, the respect line and many other things the manager needed help with throughout the game as well as before and after. When doing Silver you have to do the physical and skill sections, one for six months and the other for three. I did six months of physical, this involved three months of physical training at school with the rest of the people doing D of E, then three months of training. For the three months of skills I did baking where I made cakes, cookies and other sweet treats for my family, friends and neighbours.

At the moment I'm doing after school session on Wednesdays in preparation for my expedition in July. I'm probably more scared than excited at the moment, but I'm sure it will be fine. We just sorted our groups and I'm with some lovely girls, so that makes everything better. The expedition consists of three days walking and two nights camping, so now all we have to do is wait for the date and prepare ourselves. The main thing I'm scared of is the feeling that I won't be able to complete it which is more a mental thing than a physical, as I know I'm definitely fit enough for it.

In conclusion, my D of E experience was a whole roller coaster of a journey, many ups and downs, but I'm very proud of myself to be standing on this stage and speaking about my time doing the D of E. Thank you for listening. I hope you have a lovely evening and get home safe. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to come and ask me before the end.'

The chairman thanked Charlotte for the very interesting talk and commented that she had set the bar high for the young residents of Sedlescombe. He introduced Jackie Saull-Hunt who would present the latest on the Playground project, written by Beverley Coupar.

'Apologies I can't be with you this evening. Unfortunately, pesky COVID caught up with me again this morning, so I've had to stay at home. I'm disappointed not to be able to speak to you in person about all that has been going on.

There have been some exciting things happening with the Riverside Playground over the last couple of years. I took over as Chairman of the Public Playing Field Charity Trust in 2020 and the team along with the community have been busy working to redevelop our beautiful park. I'm sure most of you are familiar with the playground,

but in case you're not, as you can see, it's in a very beautiful place and is an absolute asset to the village.

Sadly, a lot of equipment has come to the end of its shelf life and needs to be updated to meet current safety standards. I would also like to say that the playground has been checked right from the beginning weekly by a Member of the Parish Council as well to make sure that everything was okay and it was really problematic where there were things that were beginning to become dangerous. It was a well-known idea that they really did need to be replaced.

As with any project, one of the first questions that we wanted to ask was 'what do we actually want and how much will it cost?'

So what we thought was that we'd get the children involved, because after all they're the ones hopefully who are going to be using it, so we ran a competition at the primary school and we had loads of fantastic ideas and designs.

Here is Isla who is holding up her winning design, she was in year 4 at the time.

We had a fantastic suggestion from Bella (also in year 4 at the time) about delivering environmental messages to people using the park. She designed a fantastic poster and a local graphic designer (Miles-Wilson Design) recreated it and brought it to life.

Unfortunately, our plans for our redevelopment coincided with the pandemic and all the lockdowns. We knew it was important to do a consultation, but there were obviously limited chances to do this. Eventually, we settled on an online consultation. We had an impressive 146 responses. The printouts of this are on display if anybody would like to look at them afterwards just on that back wall. In a nutshell, the community was really behind this project.

The playground design and equipment hasn't transferred particularly well onto these slides, but there are copies with all the individual equipment that people can look at afterwards. We've had some exciting agility equipment and equipment that better caters for the four to eight-year-old group as well as some fantastic accessible equipment for those with mobility issues. In addition, we have an all-surface path, with ways leading – with little pathways leading to each of the equipment and new safety surfaces under all the equipment. These were all things that were highlighted with the consultation that we put out.

Funding was always at the forefront of our minds throughout the whole process, and we have spent the last couple of years applying for grants and fundraising.

We had an overwhelming response to our first big fundraiser (the children's sale) and the generosity of the community was unbelievable. We were apprehensive as we were still in a lock-down, but we persevered, and it was a great success.

The other big event was the Summer Fair we held on the sports field last year. Again, an overwhelming success. It was a huge affair and was put together by a small team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure we had a fantastic community event.

We were successful in obtaining the full 30k from the Rother Community Grant and an additional 6k from the disability discretionary grant. Along with all the other fundraising and the time given by volunteers to help save the project as much as possible we raised the significant funds needed to get this project underway.

For this year's big fundraiser, we have the Circus coming to Sedlescombe on Saturday 9th July, so if you haven't already done so, please book your tickets as we are expecting them to sell fast. Details are on the front of the Directory and leaflets are on the side.

We recently signed up to the Rother Lottery, this is another great opportunity to win some big prizes whilst helping a good cause!

Also, when it all got planned out, the cost was around £70,000, but with all the price increases that have been happening particularly recently, it's now actually £90,000 and with all the fundraising that we've done we're

pretty much at target now which is really amazing. But the teams will continue – the teams will still continue to fundraise to make the park and to make – to assist the park for future developments.

We also are working closely with the preschool to ensure that the children fully enjoy the park as much as possible, because in the past the really small pre-schoolers apparently weren't using it as much and we're also really keen to develop a nature corner that everyone can use. If anyone has any particular expertise that they'd like to offer that would be amazing as well. And the works are going to be starting in early June and hopefully completed by July, it's slightly weather dependent.

Lastly, we just want to say a massive thank you to the people who made this amazing project possible despite facing the most difficult and challenging times. I hope the hard work and long days that some have endured will be worth it when we see our children enjoy the fabulous space that they surely deserve. Thank you.'

The Chairman thanked Jackie Saull-Hunt for stepping in at the last minute to present the project. He highlighted the amazing fundraising job that had been done by those on the committee and that it's also part of the Rother Lottery where of every £1 ticket bought to support this project £0.60 is given to the project. He also invited residents to donate to the project if they could as there is more work to be done to renovate some pieces of equipment that will not be replaced.

Volunteer Prize Draw

The chairman explained that a large number of residents do volunteer work around the village whether it's helping with the plant pots, checking the playground or fixing things and during COVID there were a lot of people who helped collecting and delivering prescriptions or groceries and doing all sorts of things that residents needed help with.

Roy Chapman drew the winning ticket he commented that *'during the troubled times we've been through, it's been very good that the people of the village have come together and, you know, the volunteers have been amazing through this COVID crisis we've been through, so it's been fantastic, it's nice being part of this village with people that care about others. It's absolutely brilliant.'* Lindsay Fraser won the prize.

He thanked all the 'Volunteers' for doing a fantastic job and asked for anyone interested in 'Volunteering' to contact The Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Roy for managing the volunteers and also for the huge amount of work that he does himself in the village.

The Chairman invited Marie and Peter Jackson to the Stage.

Marie introduced herself and Peter.

'We moved here in 2015 for those that don't know us, and we kind of came here just to retire, like I suppose quite a few of you might be doing that as well. And we looked for a group of folk who would welcome us into the Sedlescombe family and that's how we ended up getting involved with the Chapel on the Hill – which if you don't know where it is, it's on the way out, as if you're going towards the A21 and as you go around the bend where Pestalozzi is on the left, the next turning is on the left and that's Chapel Hill, and the chapel is up there on the left.

Peter is ex-Army, British Forces, and he was in there for a long time and I've been involved in serving the community since I was 12. I started getting involved with just helping people, volunteer organisations, charities, everything, loved it all my life.

The Chapel on the Hill are two things. One is that it's a group of people called the church and then there's a building that's called the Chapel on the Hill which are two different things, and we've been asked to come along this evening and just tell you a little bit more about what work we do at the chapel.

The Chapel on the Hill was built in 1879 and it's a place that was built for Christians in Sedlescombe to meet, but the actual church has always been the people, though at the moment we meet regularly at 11 o'clock on Zoom because there's lots of people who can't still get out due to mobility, COVID, etc. so we meet on Zoom and in person at 3 o'clock in the afternoons.

The church folk at the chapel are involved in, really, what our lives should be which are glimpses of God's kingdom here on earth, so we get involved in whatever, wherever we see that there's a need basically, whether that's people that actually come to the church or people that never come to the church. If there's something that people need help with, we get involved.

And we've done lots of things, especially during COVID, visiting the sick, helping in homes, hospitals, all kinds of different things, and we obviously marry people, baptisms, we officiate at funerals and many other different things in the community. But we also care for each other and help each other through tough times, encouraging each other daily as we walk through life.

So what else do we do? We support our village very much in different groups and activities in our area and we are definitely involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, we've got quite a few students in the village that have been part of the chapel doing volunteering, all kinds of things like that.

We've got involved with the playground helping with their funds and supporting them in any way that we can, but we also are involved with the local school, dementia awareness, welcoming people into the church that have dementia or supporting people with dementia. We also do food bank, we deliver donations on Tuesday mornings and you're welcome to drop off at the chapel or the Queens Head and we'll always work together with the Queens Head to make sure that they get there.

We are involved with the British Legion. I don't know if there's any of those pictures up there about the British Legion and Remembrance Day and Royal celebrations, we've been very much involved in the recent ones that have been going on. We get involved with the village school and we've helped do a local lunch club and things like that. COVID's caused a lot of disruption to many things, but we very much are actively supporting the school.

And we support the Seaview Project which is a homeless charity in Hastings and also the Starfish Malawi group where our friend actually does help, we do help get donations to physically take there, they send a container out there regularly, but we also help financially in many ways as well. There's also a local charity which you might not be aware of called the Harrison Trust that we support in Nigeria and they take donations out there of kitchenware, household goods, clothes, tools, anything that can go out to rural Nigeria, so we do help with that as well, so if anybody's got any donations and they want to drop it off, then let us know.

And we also help with filling in forms, benefits, housing applications, just getting your Blue Badge, you know, there's lots of different things where there's a need in the community where just filling in forms can be a nightmare if you can't get around that minefield of the administration involved in it.

But one of the other things that you might not be aware of is that the Chapel on the Hill – it was the first church in the South East to get a silver award as an eco-church. We worked very hard to try and use everything that we can that would be eco-friendly.'

Peter Jackson explained..

'To put that in perspective, every church in the United Kingdom was asked could they take better care of their land and buildings and the reason they asked churches is because churches as a general rule have land and buildings and a company called A Rocha, which basically means a rock, it's a private company but a worldwide company, and they thought, well, let's start with churches and see what they can do.

It's simple things to ask to not overuse even things like, which you'll probably all understand, is when you change a light bulb, change it to LED because it uses a very small amount of power compared to the ordinary filament bulbs, for example 100W you can get down to about 7. And we thought when we were – we had a tree fall on the chapel, as some of you may remember, in Storm Angus in 2016 and we had people come to us and say, right, that's it, time for the church to close, you've had the message, down has come the tree. Well, we thought completely the opposite and we thought, no, we can regenerate and let's start again.

And so from that I did some research, I love researching things, and basically found A Rocha and thought that when we're going to rebuild, we will rebuild – I mean the word is eco, isn't it – but environmentally friendly in any way that we can. And so we started off and then when you fill your forms in, you start with a bronze award,

a silver award and then end up trying to get a gold award.

There is only one gold award church in the whole of the Southeast of England and that's the Church of England in Ticehurst which is not a million miles away. And I hope that we'll be not far behind them, but we were the first church in the South East of England to get the silver award. They actually asked us where is Sedlescombe, nobody knew where Sedlescombe was, so we had to put us on the map, you know, we did and this is, you know, the company's in London and of course it went worldwide, the news, so Sedlescombe is worldwide.'

Peter handed back over to Marie.

'after that I think we went on to actually develop the gardens. We wanted to use the gardens for the community because as I said the church is the people and that is the people in Sedlescombe and we wanted them to come and use the gardens, so we've built beautiful gardens and it is open this weekend for St Michael's Hospice, so do come along on Saturday, as well as some other gardens in the community, so do join in.

But we have got a bit of a, we call it the journey garden, which has got a taste of Japan, so if you've ever looked into any Japanese gardening like Acers or anything like that, come and have a look, you know, it's really worth having a look. And we do have a bit of a country garden and we have a children's garden which we've talked a little bit about tonight and we've used everything that's reused, recycled, anything that possibly we could use again we have put into that and it's got about 16/17 activities for children, so if you've got children that you would like to bring out on Saturday and go somewhere new, come along and see it.

We've got toilet facilities, we have a coffee bar, there's a bit of a kitchenette and if you ever want to use these facilities in the chapel, do get in touch, you know, it's an untapped resource in our community. Sometimes the village hall is full up and you can't get booked in, come and see, you know, we're not into wild parties I have to say, but you're welcome to come and use it, you know, we have had children's parties, we've had family gatherings, we've had all kinds of things there and you're welcome to come and use it and we'd like to see you use it. That's the whole point of it - do come and see what's there and enjoy it.

And, you know, if you've got any questions? If not, thank you for letting us share a little bit about what the chapel is doing in your community.'

The Chairman thanked Marie and Peter and congratulated them on the hard work and creating a special place for the village.

5 The Chairman introduced David Caney to talk about the traffic calming project.

'Good evening. Where are we? Four years ago we asked you all a load of questions and the next slide will show you what we currently have as our traffic calming measure and the next slide will show you the answers you gave us to those questions which were pretty overwhelmingly in favour of getting some traffic calmed.

So anyway, we've got an overwhelming response to ask us to slow the traffic down and to put in some chicanes, get some CCTV, which we've actually managed to do, and extend some of the speed limits further out from the village, so that people slow down before they get here rather than as they're halfway through.

When we collected most of the data we needed, we formed a plan with the aid of some very expensive Highways consultants who came up and gave us an idea of what we should ask for and they gave us something like 12 or 11 ideas which should come up on your screen. Well, the first one is to extend the 30-mile-an-hour limit out from approximately the entrance to the village hall up the hill towards the church because we have new developments planned and going in just north of the village hall.

This is the planned gateway feature which should in theory slow people down coming into the village which, if you've noticed the flashing speed sign outside, they currently don't often do. There's a picture of one here, it's representative, we may not get exactly that, but we hope that we'll get something which will alert people to the fact that they're entering into Sedlescombe, all those people who've come to see the Manse perhaps.

The same thing will be at the southern end of the village towards Blackbrooks, we plan to extend the 30-mile-an-hour limit out from its current position further out towards Blackbrooks, so that again people are reminded that

they're coming into a village before they get to it and slow down.

There is planned to be a bridge pinch point which our designers have drawn like that and which might look a bit like that, perhaps without all the cyclists. That is where the planned 20-mile-an-hour limit is expected to begin, that bridge pinch point will probably be narrowed down to about 3.7m and that's the average width of one highway – one carriageway. There will be a priority sign on the approach to the village, so that any vehicle coming into the village approaching the bridge will be required to allow traffic coming out of the village to come out of the village before it can pass across the bridge. I know that it often happens informally now, particularly if you come across an HGV coming towards you, but it will be – it's planned to be part of the system.

The village pinch point, which is the only feature which has aroused any comment in the responses to the questionnaire so far, is depicted by our friendly Highways consultants like this. It's – it appears that it may cause more congestion than ease of traffic flow and we've had discussions with Highways to consider an alternative to a pinch point, which may involve something like this, which is a priority build-out. Now that's what the highway code calls a priority build-out and something like that would work, but we haven't yet got answers back from the Highways engineers as to how it might work, so we're waiting for that, they're busy working on that as part of their feasibility study of the whole scheme.

Sticking on the priority build-out, something like this is planned just north of the entrance to the village hall where the 20-mile-an-hour limit is expected to begin, so that any vehicle who doesn't see the 30-mile-an-hour sign or the village gateway is confronted with something slightly more solid to remind them you're coming into a village. And the priority will be given to vehicles leaving the village and there's a reason for that and the reason is 80% of the vehicles which use our roads spend less than three minutes in our village, they're just coming through, they're not stopping, they're not leaving because they've been here for a visit, they're just passing through. The village hall curve out – curved build-out drawing depicts it in graphic terms but is not really any more informative than the picture you've seen before.

Speaking of 20-mile-an-hour zones, the – what you see in red on this slightly vague map, believe me, it's not the vaguest map you'll see, the red depicts the intended 20-mile-an-hour zone, which we have quite solid assurances from Highways will come. So, it will start at the bridge, if you're coming from the south, it will include Brede Lane, The Green both sides, and will extend as far as just outside here, the village hall. It is then intended to extend the 30-mile-an-hour limit out towards Blackbrooks and up the hill, up this way towards the church, but not as far as the church probably, about 300m to 400m up to allow vehicles to slow from 30 to 20, assuming they've slowed to 30 in the first place.

This even more vague map, which is the best that our friends at the Highways consultants could manage, shows a rather disjointed 30 and 40-mile-an-hour zone, so if you're looking at the bottom of the map, you'll see that there's a planned 40-mile-an-hour zone leading in towards the village and there's a strange little fork, which comes back on it, that is Chapel Hill where you'll be pleased to know we're trying to get 30 miles an hour, which will then extend to 40 miles an hour up to Cottage Lane or the junction with Cottage Lane.

20 miles an hour in the middle there, you've already seen. Beyond that the 30-mile-an-hour limit will reach approximately halfway up the hill, then you'll see a junction which is Stream Lane, I know it doesn't look like that in real life. We have applied and plan to make that a 30-mile-an-hour zone where currently it's unrestricted, so if you dare you can do 60 there, I wouldn't recommend it. And beyond that is a 40-mile-an-hour limit up to past the church and up to Hurst Lane.

So those are the plans. I think we've got all of those, apart from the last thing, which is the whole reason we're here and you're here, which is this is a public consultation, so you will find that there is a questionnaire, there are copies out there, if you haven't filled in your questionnaire. It's your village, it's your opinion that counts and we would like as many answers as possible from as many people as possible to guide us on what you think of those various proposals. If you like them, good, because we worked very hard to get them. If you don't like them, tell us what it is and we'll do our best to address whatever.

We've recently been talking to a landscape architect who – if we could go back to the slide of the kerb build-out which is as approved by the Highway Code. That's the one. After the typical pinch point, have we got the priority

passing build-out? No. That's the bridge, that's the drawing. There it is. This, when I showed it to the architect, it almost caused him to collapse. He has already within a very short time come up with a number of thoughts on how we might best make this look a little less urban, but be just as effective, and obviously if we have something like this on the village green, it needs to blend in with the village green. It doesn't need to look like it's in Sidcup.

So that's what we will be aiming to do. There's a reason, which I should have touched on earlier when talking about these for the village green, there's a reason that we wanted to narrow the traffic into slowing down, although they should in theory be doing 20 anyway, and the reason is not so much the traffic as the pedestrians, because a lot of the time the Highways people talk about cars and vehicle movements and roads and they don't really talk much about pedestrians.

You've probably noticed, as you've lived here many of you longer than I have, that all the facilities in the village, the school, the shop, the pub, the hotel, the doctors, are all on one side of the village. Anyone living on the other side of the village has to cross that road twice to do anything, so what we're trying to achieve with these build-outs is to put in place two spots where it's safer for people, pedestrians, the people who live in the village, not the ones who drive through in two minutes, to cross in safety, to have good visibility up and down the road.

And that we've tried to impress upon Highways is our principal reason. It's not to cause congestion, we're not trying to cause jams, we're not trying to stop cars, we want cars to go slowly through the village, so that we're safer, pedestrians are safer, mums taking their kids to school, people going to the pub are safer from traffic and we have government support behind us for what that's worth. Ronald Reagan once said that the 10 most feared words in the English language were "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you". Well, hopefully they will help us.

So that's the intended purpose of the village pinch point because – and that's the bit which we had some comment about and I can understand it, because that's the centre of the village, so we have to do it right, it has to work properly and that's what we've employed engineers and architects to look at to achieve.

So back to the last page. If you have any thoughts, any questions, don't put the questions on that, just put the ticks on that and there'll be questions afterwards.'

6 Question and answer session on the traffic calming project.

A resident commented that he thought the crossing point in the middle of the village would be very helpful.

Q A resident commented that one thing that had not been mentioned was traffic noise and highlighted that for those living in the south of the village, the problem at the moment is that people come over the bridge where there is a certain restriction and then accelerate. He voiced a concern that a pinch point at the bridge could make that position worse, that people will – coming out of the village heading south towards Blackbrooks will putting the brakes on and then accelerate. He thought this would lead to danger for pedestrians on Chapel Hill where there are no pavements. He asked if the 20mph could be extended up Chapel Hill?

A It's very unlikely that we would get the 20 extended up Chapel Hill. All the engineers, draftsman, highways authorities' senior personnel have all focused on the bridge because that is the natural entrance to the village. Yes, everybody knows that the village extends beyond that into the lanes, but that's the natural entrance to the centre of the village and 20 miles an hour will be in the centre of the village. We are aiming for 30 miles an hour up Chapel Hill. Highways are very reluctant to install pavements on rural lanes.

Q Could the pinch point to be nearer where the 30mph sign is?

A That 30-mile-an-hour sign is going to move further out, to extend the 30mph zone. There's a very sharp left-hand bend as you're coming into the village which naturally causes people to slowdown.

It's troublesome to get those kinds of restrictions outside of the centre of a village. It's taken four years to get 20mph in the village. We're not sure we're going to get 30 up Chapel Hill, but we've been told it's possible. But until the engineers have done their work we won't have confirmation and we won't hear back from them until probably late summer.

Q What happens after the engineers have done their work?

A Assuming that this consultation doesn't throw up issues, and at the moment we're within the upper 80% acceptance of all of the proposals that we're putting forward, this forms part of the process, once the engineers have reported back, then they will need to apply to the emergency services, police, ambulance, fire brigade. And then we have the money, then it's just a question of getting an appointment with Highways to get it done.

Q An awful lot of people walk up from the village hall or from the village to the church, the path at the moment disappears there is strong bend there. It's much busier than Chapel Hill, I think they go much faster too but you're only proposing reducing the speed limit to 40 miles an hour there?

A I assure you we've spent the best part of four years thinking about all of it and whenever I walk up there I know exactly what you mean. I don't know if it's possible to extend the footpath or the pathway beyond where it currently ends just after the bend. It is part of the planning process for the intended residential properties that would be built slightly further up on the right-hand side in church property, but that's not an issue for the Highways team to deal with.

The chairman explained that to reduce the speed limit, for example, in the village from 30 to 20 we had to demonstrate that the current speed was at least as low – on average as low as 25 and that we managed to achieve. So when you get outside the village and you get an area that's currently 50 or 60, actually, that area up that section of Sandrock Hill is 50 so we're doing pretty well to get it to 40 because to get it to 30 you'd actually have to be demonstrating it was something in the range of 35mph.

So we had to work very hard to get an awful lot of data to show that people drove very slowly through the village in order to have half a chance to get the speed limit reduced.

The Chairman explained that he had attended a meeting hosted by National Highways to discuss changes to the speed limits on the A21. It is considered that there are too many changes of speed limit and the aim is to reduce this. To achieve this some parts of the A21, for example, Johns Cross, will see the speed limit increased.

There's still work to be done and that's the whole point of the consultation to receive the commentary from everybody to cross-check and to find out new ideas. I think the person who's a landscape architect actually lives in the village, he's been very helpful in making suggestions to make sure that any changes made are in keeping with the village.

Q A resident commented that if traffic is slowed down through the village they are likely to look for an alternative route. The chances are the alternative route is Stream Lane which is one of the busiest lanes in the village and at the moment the proposal is that it's going to be 40 miles an hour. It's dangerous now, and yet all we've been offered is 40 miles an hour speed limit.

A Highways engineers have been asked to look into the possibility of installing a build-out to have at least priority passing somewhere where it's safe if it's safe to do so. We're not sure where it will be because they're not sure where it will be, they're looking at it now.

Q Can you acknowledge that the result of four years planning for the village is going to cause problems further up on Stream Lane?

A The aim is that the traffic which currently should go from Hawkhurst along the A229 and onto the A21 will do that instead of turning at the moor to come through Sedlescombe.

Q A resident commented that at the moment the quickest way to get from Battle is Marley Lane, A21, Stream Lane and the B2244.

A What we're trying to achieve is to alert the algorithms of various TomTom, Google maps etc that it isn't any faster to come through here because there's an official 20-mile-an-hour speed limit, there's 30 miles an hour extended out of the village. These are all the things that we're trying to put in place, not to stop traffic or to create confusion or to make it congested, but so that people looking at their TomTom go, oh, I'll go on the A21 then. That's what we're trying to achieve, so that we reduce the – something like 7,500 to 8,000 vehicle

movements a day back to what it used to be not long ago, 2,500 to 3,000 movements a day.

The Chairman explained that what has been asked for is a reduction to 30mph and the engineers have gone to look at the feature down in Whatlington, near the village hall to use as a model for Stream Lane, so that's the idea, that's what – we've asked them to do that, they've gone to have a look at it, they seem to be positively predisposed towards it.

Q Can the 30 mile an hour be extended all the way up to Hurst Lane?

A There's not a chance that we could ever demonstrate that traffic moved along that road at less than 35 miles an hour on average. We've taken measurements up to and including the junction with Hurst Lane and vehicles move along that between the 30 mile an hour here and Hurst Lane at 44.6 miles an hour, which is what's allowed us to get 40 miles an hour in the 50-mile-an-hour zone.

We have a speed watch team. The police do join them occasionally. It's very difficult to get ANPR cameras or speed cameras and I don't think many people would want speed cameras blotting the landscape. All we can do is put in place as much as possible and trust that people will follow the law.

The Chairman explained that the police are consulted and there is a speed watch team but they haven't been able to do as much lately because there aren't as many volunteers, so anyone here who would like to help, it would be great if you volunteered. It really does work, if you do the speed watch regularly, people start to recognise it, even though they only get a sort of a letter and they have to get five letters before something might happen. It does have an impact. It can have an impact, but ultimately it takes volunteers and all the people who do it do it as volunteers and get up, as I have done, at 5:30 in the morning when the main problem is between 5:30 and 6:30. So I'm really happy if anyone would like to join me to do that sometime.

Q A resident felt that the outer lanes of the village were more in need of traffic calming, she commented that she lives in the village centre and there are natural pinch points, ie the parked cars. She went on to say that more pinch points would cause congestion.

A Obviously, people have different views. We have CCTV, one of our successes. The three accidents that we've caught on CCTV have occurred on the southbound, that's the downhill route, going past The Green. Three times vehicles have been going too fast, unobstructed, past The Green, hit cars, written them or themselves or both off and that's the only three that we've caught.

That part of The Green, running down from behind the Brick Wall, all the way down until you get to the garage is completely uncluttered. There's nothing there. Nobody parks. There's nothing there at all. So anyone coming past the hotel southbound has a completely clear view virtually to the bridge and people do put their foot down and we intend to stop them.

Q A resident commented that he thought it would be difficult to please everybody but expressed his thanks for what the Parish Council are trying to do. He asked if a weight restriction could be put on the bridge?

A The highways engineers have checked the bridge and it is capable of supporting all the weight required so they would not sanction a weight restriction.

In discussions with Highways, one build-out is proposed just north of the village hall entrance, so that it protects the entrance, it protects the mums who bring their children to the nursery and everybody else who uses it and it slows people down before they get into the village.

We have asked the engineers to look at putting in two buildouts, one on the southbound side just approximately adjoining the Brickwall Hotel, so in the blank part of the road where nobody parks, to help manage the speed along that straight part of road that has great visibility So we want to put something there where people cross. I cross every day at that point and I know lots of other people do too, I watch them crossing, mums with prams, children on their own. That would be a much safer way of crossing.

The second one we've asked the engineers to look at further down at the south end of The Green on the other side of the road, so that's on the west side of the road, so that traffic coming north accelerating as it goes over

the bridge doesn't, because it's impeded by something to slow them down with signs that say stop, priority to traffic coming towards you.

The other pinch point is the one that we have proposed on the bridge where it will be slightly narrowed, so that only one vehicle can go through at a time. There will be a priority marking on the south side so that vehicles coming around the bend towards the bridge don't put the foot down because there's a sign saying stop, allow vehicles coming towards you to cross the bridge first. Those are the three.

If we achieve our aim, we will cause people to think twice before they use the B2244.

A resident commented that she thought the Parish Council had worked very hard to improve the traffic situation in the village. People always want more but if this project delivers it will be a great starting point and that the village should be grateful.

The chairman explained that the project will be refined over the coming months while it is tested by engineers, designed to be in keeping with the village and to achieve the objectives including to protect Stream Lane.

Q A resident asked how much the project would cost?

A Once the design is finalised it will be costed, some funds were planned to come from developments in the neighbourhood plan. The chairman explained that he had changed the way the District Council use some of the community infrastructure levy so that funds are available to rural villages for large projects, to match those funds that we would have. Early estimated suggested around £100,000 and there is funding available.

Q A resident asked how protected the village is against development in the ANOB now that the Neighbourhood Plan is almost 4 years old and does the plan need to be revised?

A The Plan does need to be revisited and in not too distant a future. So Rother District Council as a Council doesn't have a five-year land supply, because in Rother District Council, for about the last 12 years, there have only been about 200 houses built per year and the government target for us is 756 now.

As a result, that makes the policies of Rother District what they call 'out of date'. There's still quite a lot of protection because in the AONB there is more protection than in non-AONB areas and the Council has been successful in defending lots of appeals on the basis of AONB. The Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan is part of that Local Plan now and so it doesn't need to add any more policies in relation to the protection of the AONB, which is protected at the national level within what's called the National Planning Policy Framework.

But we will have to update the Neighbourhood Plan because the Rother District Plan is being updated and it will produce new housing numbers and depending on whether Sedlescombe is allocated further housing or not will mean that we will have to look for other sites. As it happens, at the moment it doesn't look like there are any other development sites (ie sites for six or more houses in and around the village.)

So probably we'd be looking to start that process around the end of the year, maybe the beginning of next year, depending on when Rother actually generates those numbers. We can't do it beforehand, there have been changes to the Neighbourhood Plan legislation as well, but what I think we would be looking at also is to try and strengthen areas of the Plan.

When we did our Plan, we did the first plan in Rother if you remember and that was quite a proud moment really. There are roughly 12 Plans now either done or in process and those have been able to work on more mature policies. They've added more policies like dark skies policy, so a reduction of light pollution. Policies like that that will add more value and will probably be key to the update of the Plan.

7 Door Prize Draw

A few final announcements before we have the final door prize.

Jackie mentioned the circus on the playing field on 9th July. That's going to be a fun event and all the money is going towards the children's playground, so please buy the tickets.

The same with the Rother Lottery, please support this initiative.

Jubilee Picnic posters, these posters will go up in the next few days, the jubilee picnic is 5th June, starting at 3pm, there's correspondence going out on that, everyone's welcome to come along and enjoy that. The pub is putting on a band there will be activities for children.

The Chairman asked Sally Sidgwick to come up and draw the door prize, which is a lunch for two at the Brickwall Hotel very kindly donated by Peppe Pollio. Valerie Tegg won the prize.

Final Thank you's

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the evening, all those who've put their display tables up, members of the Parish Council who've worked consistently hard during this time and of course Jackie, our clerk, who is always there just working behind the scenes and trying to do everything for all the residents of the Parish. If I could have a round of applause for all of those people and yourselves too. On that note, thank you very much and good night.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020-21, DRAFT 2021-22 & BUDGET 2022-23.

All amounts are GBP		Final 2021-22	Draft 2022-23*	Budget 2023-24
I N C O M E	Precept on District Council	57,184	58,613	59,800
	Interest and investment income	4	8	
	Grant Income	9,939	31,312	
	Hire Fees	5,110	5,220	7,000
	CIL	0		
	Other Income	6,778	20,963	1020
	Total Income	79,415	116,116	67,820
E X P E N D I T U R E	Clerks Employment	14,012	16,022	17,004
	Training	453	40	300
	Members Allowance	200	200	200
	Bank Charges	90	72	72
	Audit Fees	784	593	800
	Professional Fees	147	472	600
	Subscriptions & Memberships	573	687	822
	Insurance	1,544	1,474	1,800
	Administration	2,813	3,202	3,700
	Grants/Donations paid	0	150	100
	Election Costs	0	0	1000
	Loan Repayment	4,643	4,643	4,730
	Section 137 expenditure			
	Entertainment	0	3,364	0
	Hall	105	362	320
	Grass Cutting	1,457	3,577	3,600
	Trees	520	3,000	2,500
	Ditch & Hedge Cutting	250	300	300
	Dog Bins	390	390	410
	Repairs and Maintenance	1,311	2,582	4,500
	Cleaning	639	920	1,560
	Village Amenities	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Bus Shelter	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Car Park - Sports Field	300	300	400
	Car Park – Brede Lane	300	300	300
	Maintenance of Assets	1,728	12,583	7,500
	Cut & Bale	450	450	800
	Utilities	938	1,966	2,200
	Traffic Calming	4,424	275	2,000
	Speedwatch	700	0	0
	Inspection Fees	68	1,244	700
	Equipment	310	84,153	0
	Total Expenditure	40,413	143,025	65,895

Earmarked Reserves			
All amounts are GBP		Final 2021-22	Draft 2022-23*
R E S E R V E S	Maintenance of Assets	7,000	8,000
	MUGA	9,500	9,500
	Red Barn Field	4,550	5,550
	Red Barn Field Grant Income	1,309	1,309
	Riverside Playground	23,212	0
	Traffic Calming	4,967.67	6,692.67
	Speedwatch	2,000	2,000
	Street Farm	11,000	11,000
	CIL	11,700	11,700
	Brede Lane Carpark	1,200	1,500
	Legal Fees	3,300	3,300
	Bus Shelter	3,100	4,100
	Sportsfield Carpark	700	0
	EVT Kickabout.	10,000	10,000
	Youth Funding	6,813.97	0
	Trees	2,000	3,000
	Sports Pavilion	20,000	22,000
	Recreation	10,000	10,000
	Neighbourhood Plan Development	0	5,000
Reserves Balances as at 31st March 2023		162,352.64	104,651.67

*NB. These are Draft figures are to the end of March 2023 and may change for the year end.

Responsible Financial Officer's (RFO) report.....

Sedlescombe Parish Council employs the Parish Clerk as its Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council follows the requirements for adequate financial governance as defined in the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioner's Guide and its own Financial Regulations. The financial year is from 1st April to 31st March.

The budget is set by Councillors at the December or January meeting for the following financial year and is the basis for submission of the precept request to Rother District Council. It is at this time that Councillors consider financing future and ongoing projects. The annual accounts were agreed at the parish council meeting held on 11th May 2022 after having been reviewed by an independent internal auditor, they were sent to the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn and received back in September unqualified (the auditor is completely satisfied with the truth and fairness of the financial statements of the accounts). You will find a copy on our website.

The council has overseen a spend of £143,025, the biggest outlay being the new playground equipment, and receipts of £116,116 in this financial year as outlined above. Sedlescombe Parish Council is able to reclaim VAT. VAT is calculated and reclaimed quarterly as it relates to suppliers invoicing directly on the council and which are VAT registered.

Overall, the net effect of expenditure & income this year has been to decrease reserves by £57,700 to some £104,651 and the expected use of the reserves is outlined in the Earmarked Reserves table. The council has a risk management policy and register and in conjunction with its financial regulations ensures that all payments are made by Standing order, direct debit or BACS, financial reports are included with the monthly meeting information and available on the council's website.

If you would like any further information, contact The Parish Clerk/RFO clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk

Meet Your Councillors.

Jonathan Vine-Hall - Chairman of the Parish Council and Independent Rother District Councillor.



Contact: 📞: 07973 129505 Hurst House, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PE

Jonathan joined the Parish Council in August 2010, has been its Chairman since May 2012. Jonathan is an ex-officio member of every committee and is actively involved in all aspects of the Parish Council's work representing the Council on a number of related bodies. Jonathan has lived in Sedlescombe since 2003 and farms Hurst Estate between Brede Lane and Cripps Corner. He has 2 rescue dogs, 2 rescue horses and 1 rescue cat. Having been a trustee for Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare for 10 years and chairman for 4 years he was appointed vice president in December 2022. Jonathan is also our Independent District Councillor for Rother and chairman of the Rother Planning Committee.

Pauline Glew - Vice-Chairman of Parish Council,

Chairman of Finance Committee and Chair of Red Barn Working Group



Contact: 📞: 01424 870258 Kagiso, 36 Park Shaw, Sedlescombe TN33 0PP

Pauline joined the Parish Council in 2003 and is an ex-officio member of all Committees. She is Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee. She is the Parish Council's representative on RALC and runs the Sedlescombe Lift Scheme and is chair of the Red Barn Field working Group, the Spring Fayre Committee and is Treasurer of the Friendship Club.

Her leisure time is taken up working voluntary for the National Trust for 24 years and trying to keep pace with 4 daughters, 13 grandchildren aged between 23 and 34 and 5 great grandchildren.

Roy Chapman - Councillor

Contact: 📞: 01424 870520 Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 ORR



Roy was elected to the Parish Council in May 2011. He is a member of the Planning, Finance, Emergency Planning Advisory and Red Barn Working Group Committees. Roy co-ordinates all the village volunteers and ensures that the village is well maintained and has become the village tree warden.

Roy has lived in and been associated with Sedlescombe and its surrounding areas for more than 40 years and ran his own building business here. He is Chairman of Battle Writers Group. His interests include photography, the arts and conservation.

Beverley Coupar - Councillor

Contact: 📞: 07938 384467 Voles, Moat Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 ORZ



Beverley was co-opted to the Parish Council in December 2019. She moved to Sedlescombe with her husband and 2 young children in 2016. She is Chair of the Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Charity Trust and deputy chair of Sedlescombe Traffic Advisory Group and The Sports Field Committee. She is an active member of the Community Speedwatch Group in the village and surrounding areas. She is a Sedlescombe Primary School Governor and treasurer for the PTA. Her interests include gardening and cooking.



Nicola Moore - Councillor

Contact: ☎: 01424 870970 1 Oaklands Park , Sedlescombe TN33 0FB

Nicola has lived in Sedlescombe for the last 8 years she was co-opted onto the Parish Council in March 2021. She is a Chartered Accountant and is looking forward to the opportunity of getting more involved in village life. As a keen environmentalist, Nicola is passionate about the AONB and is a strong believer in the conservation and protection of both the natural and historic conservation sites which the village is fortunate enough to have been awarded.



David Caney - Councillor

Contact: ☎: 07831 663321 Summer Cottage The Street, Sedlescombe TN33 0QQ

David joined the Parish Council in September 2018. He has lived in Sedlescombe for 6 years, having moved from Robertsbridge where he served as a governor at Sleshurst Primary school. He is chair of the Traffic Advisory Committee (STAG), Vice Chair of the Planning Committee and Chair of the Sporsfield and Pavilion Committee .



Jackie Saull-Hunt - Councillor

Contact: ☎: 07765 710337 Hurst Cottage, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe, TNN33 0PE

Jackie was co-opted on to the Parish Council in June 2020 She has lived in Sedlescombe for almost 20 years and has been an active part of village life including mother and toddler groups, the preschool as well as the local primary school. Her main interests include running around the local footpaths especially with various kids in tow, and swimming in the local rivers as well as a lifelong interest in plants



Lindy Latreille - Councillor

Contact: ☎: 07977 911893 Pokehold Wood, Kent Street, Sedlescombe, TN33 0SD

Lindy concluded her 50-year career in Nursing, Teaching and Social Care inspection in 2015. She then joined her Partner, Manufacturing roof, floor, wall and Mathematical tiles for heritage and listed properties from a rural setting in Kent Street. Since 2017 she has been a member of the Patient Participation Group attached to the Sedlescombe & Westfield Surgeries and a Volunteer with East Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust, joining the Parish Council in November 2022.



Jackie Scarff - Parish Clerk / Financial Officer

Contact: ☎: 07531 065 469 The Red House, Lower Street Ninfield TN33 9ED.

Jackie joined as Parish Clerk/RFO to Sedlescombe PC in October 2018. She is currently employed by the Parish Council for 15 hours per week as the Clerk and proper Officer. she has recently passed her Certificate in Local Council Administration, becoming a qualified clerk. Jackie lives in Ninfield with her husband and 3 children and outside of work enjoys sailing and gardening.



Carl Maynard -Rother District and East Sussex County Councillor

Contact: ☎: 07500 224869 Dines Wood, 22 Baldslow Down, Westfield, TN37 7NH

Carl was elected councillor for Brede Valley and Marsham in 2005 has been a ward councillor on Rother District Council since 1999. His current Committee Membership is: Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Cabinet, East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, ESBT Strategic Commissioning Board and Full Council.

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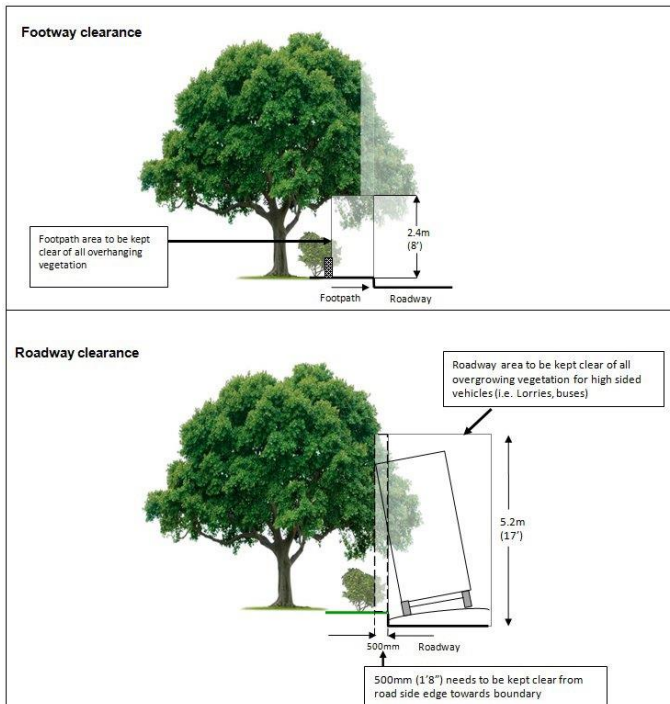


and follow us on



Trees and Hedges Advice

Leaflet by East Sussex Highways.



Q. My tree is overhanging the highway, how far should it be cut back?

A. The tree should be a minimum of 50cm from the edge of the carriageway/footway.

Q. I have received a letter asking me to cut back a tree but I am unable to cut it myself

A. We recommend using a skilled contractor to carry out work. You can visit the [Buy With Confidence](#) website to find an approved tree surgeon.

Q. Which Trees are East Sussex Highways responsible for?

A. Highways are responsible for the maintenance of trees on highway land. Trees are maintained when they become a hazard to the highway for example if they are dead, dying or diseased trees; trees which are blocking visibility or are considered a safety hazard.

Trees which are overhanging the highway from private land are the responsibility of the landowner.

Q. There is a tree / branch lying across overhead cables in Eastbourne or Hastings

Trees in Eastbourne and Hastings are dealt with by the borough council. If you have any issues, please contact them directly via the email addresses below.

Eastbourne Borough Council - trees@eastbourne.gov.uk - Hastings Borough Council - arboriculture@hastings.gov.uk

Q. I have a query regarding a tree preservation order (TPO)

A. Tree Preservation Orders are dealt with by [District and Borough Councils](#). Contact [Rother District Council - Protecting Trees](#)

Overgrown hedges and vegetation can cause safety problems for people using the highway. Especially if they suffer from impaired vision or need a little more space for wheelchairs, mobility scooters or buggies.

Most hedges adjacent to the highway form part of the private boundary feature of the property. This means that the responsibility for maintenance of the vegetation falls under the land or property owner. If the local Highway Steward sees a safety problem during a routine inspection or if a complaint is made we will send a letter to the property owner asking for the hedge or tree to be cut back.

Q. There is an overgrown hedge obstructing the footway or carriageway

A. The local Highway Steward will inspect the area, if the vegetation is causing a safety issue they will ask the owner to cut it back. If we cannot get hold of the owner directly, we will write to them and ask them to advise us within 14 days of their action. The Steward will inspect the hedge again after 14 days to see whether it has been cut. If we haven't heard from the owner or they refuse to cut it back, then our enforcement team will investigate. If the owner still refuses following an enforcement notice, then we will arrange for cutting ourselves and recharge the owner.

Q. There is a wasp nest on highway land

A. East Sussex Highways only deals with wasp nests which are directly on highway land. We are unable to remove nests located on private property.

Garage Services



BAVARIAN MOTORSPORT

Bridge Garage Workshops
The Street, Sedlescombe,
East Sussex.
TN33 0QB

Tel: 01424 870202

Local MOT Test Centre

AUTHOR

Mrs Julia Chapman

Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe
01424 870520

Author of the following books about Sedlescombe.....

'LIFE THROUGH THE LENS'

A Pictorial history of the village

'HOP-SCOTCH & SPINNING TOPS'

The history of the old Primary School

'THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES'

Memories of local people

'One Last Chance' also 'One Last Chance' part II My Continuing Journey by Roy Chapman also available.

Books can be purchased at the local shop or contact Julia at the above address

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Stream Farm, Stream Lane, Sedlescombe

Clubs and societies news and contacts.

Sedlescombe News

The Sedlescombe News brings you a weekly round-up of the news and events in the Village and is available to purchase from the Village Shop for 20p or £10pa to receive 50 weekly copies by email. Items for inclusion can be left in the Village Shop by 12 noon on Wednesdays. **Entries are FREE.** The Editorial team is totally voluntary, and they are always on the lookout for additional helpers. If you are interested in being involved, please contact ☎ 870270. E-mail ✉: sedlescombenews@outlook.com

Village Voice Battle Observer

The Village has its own village voice column published in the local Battle Observer which comes out every Friday. It provides information on Sedlescombe, local events, groups and organisations. There is no charge for this promotion. If you have an event coming up in the local area or would like to have a small piece outlining your club or organisation aims, activities, membership etc., then please drop your information into Asselton House, The Green or send via e-mail ✉: judy@asselton.co.uk or call ☎ 01424 870344

Notice Board

Items for posting on the Parish Council notice board outside the shop may be left in Sedlescombe Village Shop or sent by email to the Parish Clerk. Email ✉: clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk

Parish Council Website

Sedlescombe Parish Council website www.sedlescombe.org.uk is as useful source of information. The current website continues to be updated with the work of Sedlescombe Parish Council and is compatible with most media devices. Sometimes it is useful to use the search facility to find the information you are looking for, but please feel free to contact the clerk if you can't find what you need.

Sedlescombe Jobs Network

The Sedlescombe Jobs Network has been active since 2014 and has publicised many job opportunities. The network also offers a platform for organisations who are seeking volunteers. Village news and events are also being promoted. Contact: Michelle Brister ☎: 01424 870589 ✉: michelle.brister@btinternet.com Facebook users search for 'Sedlescombe Jobs Network' page and 'Like' to receive information and post updates.

Litter Pickers

The Parish Council have been asked to provide litter pickers for volunteers to borrow. If you would like to do some litter picking contact Pauline Glew for more details. ☎: 01424 870258

Lift Scheme

The Parish Council runs an informal lift scheme to help Sedlescombe residents who find it difficult to attend hospital/surgery appointments because of lack of transport. A list of names of drivers willing to provide lifts can be found at the Doctors Surgery on Brede Lane. Those wanting lifts should simply telephone anyone on the list and pay the driver. Contact Pauline Glew ☎: 01424 870258 if you would like to become a lift scheme driver.

Battle Area Community Transport

Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) was founded in 1999 in response to the need for regular transport serving the inhabitants of rural areas of East Sussex. Bus services serving Sedlescombe can be found online or for further details. Contact ☎ 01424 870955 (mon-Fri 9-12) ✉: bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk 🌐: www.bact-online.co.uk

Buses

Stagecoach Bus Service 349: 2-hourly daytime service details Contact ☎ 08702 433711 / General 0345 6080194 🌐: www.stagecoachbus.com

Clubs and societies news and contacts.

Sussex Police

Sedlescombe, Ewhurst, Staplecross, Cripps Corner and Bodiam neighbourhood area' comes under the **Rother district**. The nearest Police Station is in North Trade Road, Battle. TN33 0EX. ☎: 101 or 01273 470 101. ✉: 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk To report a crime or incident call Sussex Police ☎101 or report online <https://www.sussex.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/> For your local team please call or email.

✉: rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk ☎: 01273 404934 🌐: www.sussex.police.uk

Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 10am – 2pm

Crime stoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent charity helping law enforcement to locate criminals and help solve crimes. They have an anonymous 24/7 phone number, **0800 555 111** to pass on information about crime; alternatively anonymously fill in their 'Giving Information Form'

🌐: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/>.

For more information visit their website at 🌐: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Sedlescombe Parish Council

Parish Council Clerk – Jackie Scarff. Sign up to receive important information via email.

🌐: www.sedlescombe.org.uk we send 3 newsletters a year plus important information like road closures etc

✉: clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk ☎: 07531 065469

📍: The Red House, Lower Street, Ninfield, Battle, TN33 9ED

Rother District Council

Rother District Council can provide help on a range of issues such as Benefits, Planning, Bus Passes, Council Tax, Data Protection, Dead Animals, Elections, Food Hygiene, Freedom of Information, Grants, Housing, Jobs, Land Charges, Licensing, Parking, Pest/Dog Control, Planning, Pollution/Noise, Road/Pavements and Waste/Recycling.

☎: 01424 787000 ; ☎: 01424 787686 (out of hours). 🌐: www.rother.gov.uk

✉: customerservices@rother.gov.uk;

📍: Rother District Council. Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3JX

East Sussex Highways

East Sussex Highways maintain over 2,000 miles of highway in East Sussex and look after roads, pavements, streetlights, grass and winter maintenance. Problems from Potholes to Overhanging Trees can be reported via: 🌐: www.eastsussexhighways.com

Customer contact centre ✉: customer@eastsussexhighways.com

☎: 0345 608 0193

Rother Member of Parliament

The Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle is **Huw Merriman MP**

Constituency Office contact: 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill on Sea, E. Sussex, TN40 1EE

☎: 01424 736861 ✉: huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk

House of Commons contact: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

☎: 0207 219 1852 ✉: huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk

Battle Library

Battle Library at 7 Market Square, Battle offers Books, audio books and DVDs.

Free computers with Internet access. Opening times are different daily so check their website.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/local/locations/battle>

Free Wi-Fi. Local history material. Photocopier. Bus pass forms for older people. Bus travel discounts for young people. Disabled access. Display facilities. Computer help from volunteers Wednesday 10.30am to 12 noon. Thursdays 12 noon to 2pm – available in library or book in advance. **Contact:** ☎: **0345 60 80 196**



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Clubs and societies news and contacts.

Allotments

Private allotments at rear of Bulmer Lodge, The Green.

Contact: David/Natasha Lampard

email ✉: David.lampard1984@gmail.com

Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Where: Events held at Sedlescombe Village Hall

Contact: Chairman

Rosemary Farley ☎: 01424 870533

Secretary

Brenda Page ☎: 01424 870455

Website: www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk

Shows, outings, plant exchange and social events throughout the year. Contact as above or see Shop Notice Board for dates/times.

Anyone with an interest in any aspects of gardening is welcome to join at only £9 per person per year (£12 for Family membership).

Badminton

Where : Sedlescombe Village Hall

When: Tuesdays at 7.30pm Contact: Shirley Davies ☎: 01424 870475

The Chapel on the Hill (*The United Reformed Church*)

Where: Chapel Hill Sedlescombe TN33 0QX

When: Sundays Time: 3pm

Contact: Marie Jackson Pastor ☎: 01424 870512 or ☎: 07842 145341

The CHAPEL and Manse Garden can be opened at other times for visits, contemplation, and quiet times.

Everyone is welcome to draw near in Faith. We are a friendly bunch who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, do come along and find out more.

Other events during the year such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Chapel Anniversary celebrations, Bible Study and Coffee mornings are held at various times; Please keep an eye on the 'Sedlescombe Village News' for more information.

The chapel is well heated and ventilated and comfortably seats 45 people, there is a small side room with seating for around 12.

We have a coffee bar, modern kitchen facilities with a fully accessible WC. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters have full access to the Chapel and Garden.

We now have a children's Garden built during the 'Lockdown.' This has around 20 activities, it is ideally suited to children individually or groups under 11 years of age. (Groups should have their own insurance)

The premises are for hire to village groups under certain conditions.

Contact the **Church Secretary Peter Jackson on 07543 955065** or

email thechapelonthehill2020@outlook.com for details on Marriages, Baptism, Funerals, and other bookings.

Sedlescombe Church Bellringers

Where: Parish Church

When: Every Wednesday at 7.30pm

Sedlescombe Book Club

If you enjoy reading, sharing your enthusiasm for a good read and the idea of a monthly meet up over a cup of tea with a small informal and friendly group, then please get in touch with Glynis on

✉: Shaw.glynis3@gmail.com ☎: 07704 160128

Clubs and societies news and contacts.

Sedlescombe Dance Club

Where : Northiam Village Hall

When: Most Fridays throughout the year Time: 7.30-10.00pm

Contact: Les Gordon ☎: 01424 424763

New members from the experienced to the novice, are given warm welcome & established members are always happy to help newcomers to settle in.

Friends of Sedlescombe Parish Church Heritage Trust

Contact: Judy Torrance ☎: 01424 870344 to become a friend.

This charitable trust was established by the late Beryl Lucey for the purpose of assisting in maintenance and restoration of our beautiful 13th century Parish Church and churchyard. It provides a means for anyone in the community to contribute to ensuring the long-term survival of this historic building. Several fund-raising events are organised throughout the year.

Sedlescombe Friendship Club

Established in 2007, the club was founded with the aim to advance the welfare of the older people and, in particular, to endeavour to counteract loneliness and isolation. Several events will be planned each year including visits to interesting places often with lunch. Our programme also includes computer lessons which take place on a Saturday. Dates and times of these and other events will be published in the Sedlescombe News and elsewhere that is appropriate.

Committee: Valerie Wright, Shirley Coleman, Maureen Hayes, Pauline Glew, Fay Rose, Andrea Hogwood, Jennifer Mitchell.

Sedlescombe Guides

1st Sedlescombe Guides is for all girls aged 10 to 14years. We meet weekly during term time for 2 hours.

Contact Jo Mozley on ☎: 07739 352148 or ✉: jomozley@hotmail.co.uk

Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch

Contact: Danny Blay ☎: 01424 871669

Call 999 to report crime in progress or someone in immediate danger.

Call 101 for non-emergency reporting.

A new membership pack is available on www.ourwatch.org.uk as well as extensive information on many neighbourhood and national issues and useful phone numbers.

Check the website regularly for weekly information.

Parish Church - St John The Baptist

What: Family Friendly Service without Eucharist - 1st Sunday in the month*

Parish Eucharist - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday in month

Joint Benefice Service with Whatlington -5th Sunday in the month.

When: 10.30 am. (* Eucharist available at Whatlington at 9.30am 1st Sunday in month)

Churchwarden Trevor Palmer ☎: 01424 870830

Churchwarden Jane Wallis ☎: 01424 870240

Clubs and societies news and contacts.

Sedlescombe Players

Contact: Chairman Tara Buchanan ☎: 01424 870694
Email ✉: sedlescombeplayers@hotmail.co.uk
Website 🌐: www.sedlescombeplayers.co.uk

The Players are a friendly, welcoming group, with a strong membership of all ages and a core production crew. We tackle a wide variety of productions, aiming for 2 a year, and rehearse in the hall on Monday nights. Actors come and go, and return, depending on the genre of show and newcomers are always welcome both onstage and backstage.

Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club

Contacts: Chairman Chas Tibbutt
Secretary Matt Noonan
Phone: ☎: 0330 001 0993
Email: ✉: info@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk
Website: 🌐: www.sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk

FA affiliated England Football Accredited Club. Based at Oaklands Park, Sedlescombe, East Sussex. Established in 1981, the club has grown from a single youth team to become a large community football club. Today's club is proud of its thriving youth and senior football setup, which offers a 'football for life' approach, starting with our pre-match playing age children (under 6 years old), progressing through the youth age and onto our fully integrated Open Age (adult) football section.

Our teams play across a number of leagues and operate in line with FA and Sussex FA rules and codes of conduct. Matches are played at Oaklands Park, Staplecross Playing Field and Bexhill Road Playing Field in St Leonards.

Rother Seniors Forum

The Rother Seniors' Forum (RSF) was established 2006 as an independent organisation giving a collective voice to the over fifties of Rother District. RSF is strictly no part-political and will work with all bodies to the benefit of all Rother Seniors.

Contact: Chair: Terry Steeples email ✉: info@rotherseniorsforum.org.uk ☎: 01424 256999

Sedlescombe Brownies

1st Sedlescombe Brownies is for all girls aged 7 to 10 years
For more information please contact Andrea Hunneman ☎: 01424 424112

Sedlescombe Short Mat Bowls Club

.....established June 2006

Where: Sedlescombe Village Hall (3 bowling mats)

When: Meets each Tuesday and Thursday.

Contacts:	Chairman	Trevor Palmer	☎: 01424 870830
	Vice-Chairman	Bea Morris	☎: 01424 777048
	Secretary	Chris Escott	☎: 07753 252449

Contact any of the above for further information.

Clubs and societies news and contacts.

The Breakaways

Where: In the homes of the members.

When: Every 3rd Thursday in the month

Time: 10.00 until 12.00

We are a new group of ladies from the village who meet once a month and we will be having demonstrations and talks by local villagers as well as other speakers.

Refreshments will also be available and new members/visitors will always be welcomed.

For further information please contact Mrs. Rosemary Farley ☎ 0142 870533.

Thursday Club

Where: Committee Room, Sedlescombe Village Hall

When: 1st Thursday in every month except August.

Time: 10:00 to 12:00

Contacts: Ken Western ☎: 01424 870824. Brenda Page ☎: 01424 870455

Speakers on a variety of interesting topics. Meetings are open to all and refreshments are available.

Sedlescombe Village Hall

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Check availability on the website Diary page and full details of this fantastic Community Venue.

Book Now, ✉: sedlescombevillagehall@gmail.com

Website: www.Sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk on Facebook @sedlescombevillagehall

Community Cinema

Community Cinema at Sedlescombe Village Hall. A film every month on a Thursday evening, £6 entry on the night. See some all-time favourite films on our big screen. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm, licenced bar, snacks and drinks, free parking.

www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk

Sedlescombe Wine Club

We are a very friendly group of wine lovers who meet once a month for great wine tastings and talks mostly in the village hall. Become a member, annual subscription is £35 per person. Major event and outside visits extra. All events at 7.30pm on a Friday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

Guest members are welcome and can pay a fee of £7.50 for each event attended.

Contact: Tina Mitchell ☎: 07788 544889 Email: ✉: tinasixtytwo@btinternet.com

Clubs and societies news and contacts.

Sedlescombe & Westfield Patient Involvement Group

The Patient Involvement Group (PIG) is a small group of volunteers who meet every 6 weeks to talk about key issues regarding the Practice. There is a virtual group through which members can keep in touch. If you would like to know more about the Patient Involvement Group or are interested in joining

Email: ✉: sedwest.ppg@nhs.net or check the website

<https://www.sedlescombeandwestfieldsurgeries.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-pig/>

Sedlescombe and Westfield GP Surgeries

Part of the Rural Rother Primary Care Network Sedlescombe Surgery is a partnership of GPs working from two sites, in the villages of Sedlescombe and Westfield in rural East Sussex. Our aim is to provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for all our patients whilst also providing high levels of up-to-date clinical care across a wide range of services. The Surgery has an open list and welcomes requests for registration from patients living in or moving to the practice area. On registration patients are given a named GP but you are free to consult whoever you feel can help you best at the time.

☎: 01424 870225

Tennis Coaching

Nick Montague provides Adult and Junior Tennis Coaching for Sedlescombe and the surrounding areas. Group and individual sessions available at the MUGA, Riverside Recreation Ground..

Contact: ☎: 07824 799632

✉: montaguenick075@gmail.com

Sedlescombe Pre-School


Where Sedlescombe Village Hall- TN33 0QW

When Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Time 9.00am-3.00pm, 38 weeks a year (Early start also available from 8.30am).

Contacts ☎: 01424 871455 (07577 644179 – out of hours)

✉: sedlescombepreschool@yahoo.co.uk

 sedlescombepre--School

We offer a full range of exciting activities for children aged 2-5 years that encourage their early years development. We accept 2-, 3- & 4-year-old funding. Contact us to arrange a visit to this wonderful pre-school or pop by to collect a welcome pack.

Katie Bourne's Office



As your elected Police and Crime Commissioner, one of my responsibilities is to set the budget for policing in Sussex and ensure that, what local people tell me matters most to them, is reflected in the delivery of policing.

The PCC's role is to hold the Chief Constable of Sussex Police to account for the performance of the Force, effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve.





Katy is responsible for setting the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police through the Police & Crime Plan. This includes setting the police budget and local police precept - the amount residents pay for policing in their council tax.


She also has a statutory duty to commission support services for victims of crime and to deliver community safety initiatives including restorative justice and crime reduction grants.

To sign up to the weekly newsletter, visit: : www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/pcc-newsletter/

UK Power Networks Useful Advice.

Anyone experiencing a power cut should:

- Call : **105** to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network.
- Call : **0800 3163 105** from a corded phone or mobile phone if you have no power.
- Visit : www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk for the latest updates
- Visit : www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut - type in their postcode to view our live power cut map.
- Tweet [@ukpowernetworks](https://twitter.com/ukpowernetworks) to report a power cut or to receive updates.

Stay clear of power lines and report damaged power lines immediately by calling : **105** free from either a landline or a mobile phone.

Electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public should be reported on : **999**.

Priority Service Register during a power cut, households with **older** or **disabled people**, those with **children under five**, or where someone uses **medical or mobility equipment** that requires electricity as well as other reasons can join the register.

You can find out more information about our Priority Service on our website

: www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority

@UKPowerNetworks provides free services to vulnerable customers.

For more information visit

: www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority

Sedlescombe Sports Pavilion and Sports Field available to hire, together or separately, for sports, events, meetings, children's Parties.

Versatile space with kitchen facilities and a huge sports field.

Contact: : clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk or **Call** : **07531 065469**

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Sedlescombe Lift Scheme.

LIFT SCHEME. An informal scheme is arranged by the Parish Council to help Sedlescombe residents without transport to attend hospital or surgery appointments. It has been running successfully for 17 years and relies on people willing to be drivers.

Residents who are unable to get to medical appointments can telephone people on a list who are willing to help. We, in Sedlescombe, have 7 drivers on the list at the moment, we would like to have 12. Obviously if their chosen driver cannot help, the Resident telephones others on the list. A small fee for this service is charged, money going to the driver for running costs. We cover the Conquest, Bexhill and Eastbourne Hospitals and the Sedlescombe surgery.

A list of drivers who are willing to provide lifts is published on the board outside the shop and those wanting lifts simply make a phone call to any one on the list and pay the driver. Cllr Pauline Glew 01424 870258 or The Parish Clerk 07531 065469 will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to become a Lift Scheme driver.



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WOULD YOU LIKE A LITTER FREE VILLAGE?



Cllr. Pauline Glew has the tools etc., to keep Sedlescombe looking 'CLEAN AND TIDY.'

We already have some people in the village that keep their area free of litter and thanks to you all from the Parish Council. It would be good if we could interest some more villagers to take on this worthwhile job. Please come and join the Litter Pickers. Contact cllr. Pauline Glew on 01424 870 258.

email cllr.glew@sedlescombe.org.uk

Sedlescombe CE Primary School

Where: Gammons Way, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex. TN33 0RQ

Contact: Mrs. Caroline Harvey – Head Teacher ☎: 01424 870585

Email: ✉: office@sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Website: 🌐: www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Welcome from the Head Teacher – Mrs. Caroline Harvey

A very warm welcome to Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School. The school was originally founded in 1723 but has been on the existing site since September 1980.

At the heart of our school is each and every child. As a small school we are able to know each child as an individual and can build on their strengths and nurture and support their weaknesses. Our children are taught by dedicated, hard working staff who make learning fun and exciting whilst ensuring that we provide a high quality education so that every child realises his or her potential.

The School has an active Parent Teacher Association providing fun activities for the children while fundraising for the school. The PTA provides essential support in providing resources, treats for the children and equipment for the school.

DD Brickwork & Construction is based in East Sussex, and is a well-established, trustworthy and professional company which covers Hastings, Battle, Bexhill-on-sea, Rye and all the surrounding areas. Our service is professional and we care for all of our customers by ensuring our work is of a very high standard. We also make it part of our practice of keeping them fully informed of progress. You can see on our web page that our customer's rate us highly for the quality of workmanship and our ability to meet deadlines. We guarantee a professional service, from the initial free quotation to the end professional finish and we use our skills and knowledge to complete your job to exact standards.

An advertisement for DD Brickwork & Construction. The background is a brick wall. At the top, 'DD' is written in large, bold, red letters. Below it, 'BRICKWORK & CONSTRUCTION' is written in bold, blue, block letters. A red banner below contains the text 'New Builds • Extensions Wall Tie Replacement Repointing • Patios • DPC Injection' in white. At the bottom, two phone numbers are listed: '01424 870060' and '07531 950059'. Below the numbers is the email address 'dd.brickwork@aol.co.uk'. There are also logos for 'East Sussex County Council TRADING APPROVED' and 'City & Guilds'.

We are very reliable and have worked for many big building companies such as DAVID WILSON HOMES, SILVER HOMES, BLOUR HOMES, R DURTNELL & SONS, PERSIMMONS and have managed several large projects

Summary of County Council achievements 2022/23

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in 2022/23 (up to February 2023) under the four strategic priorities of the Council:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/about/key-documents/council-plans

The Council Plan for 2023/24 will be on our website from 1st April 2023.

Driving sustainable economic growth

Following a competitive tender process, ESCC awarded a **new contract for highways and infrastructure services** to Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd. The contract, valued at £297m for an initial seven years from May 1 2023, has an option to extend to a maximum of 14 years. During the procurement process bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the Council's goals to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure high quality work, provide value for money and improve social wellbeing.

Planning permission was secured, and work has begun to replace the **single lane crossing at Exceat** with a new two-lane bridge. Extensive and vital environmental surveys and work have commenced to ensure the bridge is constructed sensitively, protecting the unique nature of the area. The new structure will improve reliability of the road network, accessibility for visitors and will create a new shared meeting space.

Over 752 **road improvement schemes**, utilising the one-off additional investment agreed by ESCC Cabinet in November 2021, were completed by the end of 2022 at 398 sites with a further 100 sites expected to be completed by the end of 2022/23. This includes patching schemes, new signs and new road markings. In addition, during the first three-quarters of the year we completed 140 **road maintenance projects** to maintain and improve the county's roads and repaired over 17,000 potholes in the roads and pavements. There was a significant increase in reported potholes following the wettest November on record and one of the coldest starts to December. By the end of January 2023, we had more than doubled the number of pothole repair gangs from 10 to 23 and extended working hours.

In September 2022, over £41m of funding to improve bus services across the county was confirmed by Government. ESCC's **Bus Service Improvement Plan** was approved which has enabled the Council to reduce fares and will support bus priority and bus stop improvements, investments in infrastructure and the provision of more bus services.

Following extensive consultation, **Transport for the South East**, the region's sub-national transport body which is chaired by ESCC, approved their Strategic Investment Plan which is the blueprint for future investment in strategic transport infrastructure for the next thirty years.

Over the summer, over 600 people looking to get into the world of work attended Apprenticeship Roadshows in Hastings and Eastbourne, with more than 60 training providers and employers from a range of industries on hand to give advice and information. The Apprenticeship Roadshows are part of the £600,000 Transform programme, supported by the European Social Fund, and including match funding of £300,000 from the Council's Apprenticeship Levy which helps small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) access **apprenticeship** advice and funding. More than 3,600 students from across East Sussex gained an insight into the world of work through the Council's **work experience** scheme with pupils aged 14-18 from 32 schools being offered placements during the last academic year with over 1,400 businesses. More than 20 businesses have also signed up to the Open Doors scheme which gives young people real-life experience of the workplace and runs from November to June 2023 this year. Recruitment of Industry Champions has also continued, with 190 champions supporting schools and colleges in place by the end of 2022.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

The **Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme** provided for more than 1,800 young people during the Easter holidays, including 300 young people with additional needs. May half-term activities focused on supporting young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and those with low attendance: 1,440 young people were involved through more than 4,500 sessions. Provision was also extended over the summer holidays with over 80 providers across 144 sites, offering activities and nutritious food to children who receive free school meals.

A new **Connected Families Service** was launched in 2022 for families with children aged 11-17 who are on the edge of care. The service aims to enable children to live safely at home, or where care is necessary, to maintain relationships and work to support children to return home when appropriate. Connected Coaches provide proactive, tailored support for families at their point of need.

Trading Standards were involved in over 425 interventions over the first three-quarters of 2022/23 to protect vulnerable people, including installing CCTV and call blockers to try to prevent people from falling victim to telephone scams. Trading Standards have also obtained Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation orders against convicted individuals this year totaling nearly £100,000. The team also took part in Scams Awareness Fortnight, including speaking to people at local libraries to raise awareness of the types of scams which target vulnerable people.

As at mid-January 2023 1,170 guests were in East Sussex under the **Homes for Ukraine** scheme, with more than 400 school places allocated to Ukrainian children. ESCC is working with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to provide support to Ukrainian families.

Helping people help themselves

A new **East Sussex SEND strategy** for 2022-25 was launched in November 2022 after a 10-month consultation period. The strategy outlines a partnership approach to service provision and commissioning by putting children, young people and their families at the centre of decision making. A new specialist facility for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder opened at All Saints Primary School in Bexhill during 2022, alongside a new free special school in Eastbourne; Summerdown School – which will educate up to 84 learners with a diagnosis of autism, between the ages of 5 and 16.

Reablement services are provided to help people to regain mobility and daily living skills, especially after a hospital stay. Between April and September 2022 90.7% of older people discharged from hospital to reablement or rehabilitation services were at home 91 days after discharge.

Work continued on the further **integration of health and social care**. The Integrated Care Board (NHS Sussex) was formally established on 1 July 2022 and is responsible for agreeing strategic priorities and resources for all NHS organisations in Sussex. The joint statutory committee between local government and the NHS, the Sussex Health and Care Assembly approved the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy with work underway to develop a joint Forward Plan which will support delivery of shared priorities. During the last part of 2022, schemes to support people who were medically fit to leave hospital into appropriate onward care settings were mobilised to help alleviate pressures on the NHS. ESCC teams also worked with urgent community response healthcare services to support people and their carers to remain in their own homes.

Thirteen **road safety** schemes were completed during the first three-quarters of 2022/23 to improve road safety infrastructure. Nearly 3,000 people have also benefited from 'Bikeability' courses.

In July 2022, a new website 'The Stopping Place' – the Council's new one-stop shop for **Gypsy, Roma and Travellers** (GRT) was launched. The new website was co-designed to improve the educational experience of GRT families. Believed to be the first website of its kind, 'The Stopping Place' has been developed to encourage a greater understanding of school life and help families access the support they may need. The site also provides education professionals with valuable insight into GRT customs and beliefs.

A new initiative to tackle **fuel poverty** and improve energy efficiency in privately rented households within areas of Hastings was launched in August 2022. ESCC was one of 13 local authorities to secure funding from the Government's Partnerships for People and Place programme. The funding will help the Council, local partners, and central government colleagues to develop new solutions which aim to reduce fuel poverty and increase the take up of energy efficiency improvements, boosting residents' health and providing environmental benefits.

Making the best use of our resources

The Council's **budget and Council Plan** for 2023/24 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 7 February 2023. Councillors approved a £501m net budget for 2023/24 for the day-to-day provision of services. Spending in 2023/24 also includes part of our £725m 10-year capital programme, which includes investment in roads and highways structures, in reducing the Council's carbon emissions and in school places.

Following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 the Council developed a corporate climate emergency plan for 2020-22, which set out the baseline carbon emissions and the actions to be delivered. In January 2023, Cabinet approved an updated corporate **Climate Emergency Plan** covering 2023-25. The plan sets out a number of actions to reduce our carbon emissions including in property services, travel, street lighting and procurement. The outturn for quarter 2 of 2022/23 showed a 29% reduction in carbon emissions, from the baseline year 2019/20. The Council spent £295m with 908 **local suppliers** over 2022, equating to 67% of total spend. In addition, during the first three-quarters of the year, 10 contracts were awarded which were in-scope of the Social Value Measurement Charter. These contracts had a total value of just over £340m with almost £198m of **social value** commitments secured, including apprenticeships, employability support and support for the VCSE. This equates to an outturn of 58% of applicable procurement spend, against a target of 10%.

The **East Sussex Pension Fund** was named Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Fund of the Year (assets over £2.5 billion) at the 2021 Local Authority Pension Fund (LAPF) Investments Awards (announced in March 2022). The award recognises the Fund’s excellence in implementing best practice, leadership across pension fund operations, investment performance, governance and administration. In addition, the Fund was highly commended in the Best Climate Change Strategy category.

Contact: Alice Pippard: alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk 01273 481816 February 2023

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About Us

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Enjoy Delicious Locally Sourced Food by The Roaring Fire, or on a Finer Day Sit Back & Relax Our Beer Garden.

**Rother District Councillor
Jonathan Vine-Hall**

Annual Report 2022/23

As we come to the end of this year I thought it would be good to look back over the last 3 ½ years to reflect on the achievements of the Independent led administration of Rother. Despite the loss of nearly 2 whole years during the Covid Pandemic we have been able to make some significant successes and improvements at Rother District Council. I am going to list the highlights below as I think it really demonstrates the positive change that happens when politics is taken out of local government and what can be achieved.

The Independent led administration has:-

1. Created a more open transparent Council by introducing webcasting of all public meetings so every resident can watch every meeting live or watch it later if they want.
2. Introduced the best scheme in any Authority for residents and Parish Councils to speak at the Planning Committee.
3. Given every resident the opportunity to engage in what should be the priority for the new local plan (for housing and economic development).
4. Restructured the Planning department so applications are now processed on time.
5. Created Bexhill Town Council so you as a rural resident will not be subsidising residents in Bexhill.
6. Ensuring that the levy paid by developers (CiL) comes back to Rural Rother whereas under the previous Conservative administration it was all spent in Bexhill.
7. Provided funding to make every village hall energy efficient which benefits every rural community with a hall.
8. Reduced development in the AONB. Under the previous Conservative Administration (pre-May 2019) they voted for 484 new dwellings on greenfield sites in the AONB. (Some development will always happen in the AONB). The current administration has only approved 35 dwellings (about 1 per Parish).
9. Built more affordable homes for our children than previously achieved.
10. Introduced the Rother Lottery to help community good causes reducing demand on the Council's financial reserves for Community Grants. Currently 74 good causes benefitting.
11. Introduced environmental enforcement to combat litter, fly tipping and dog fouling resulting in a noticeable improvement.
12. Stabilised the Authority's finances with a practical plan to remove the cost of Bexhill from rural residents which under the previous Conservative administration was draining the Authority of its financial reserves.
13. Implemented a plan for a carbon neutral Rother District Council by 2030 by declaring a climate emergency.
14. Won a 17 million grant from the government for the updating of the De La Warr Pavilion.

15. Significantly reducing the cost of housing the homeless through purchasing Council owned properties removing the high cost of 'bed and breakfast' type accommodation.

I am pleased to be able to say that I have been directly involved in many of these improvements particularly in the area of planning. Locally I have been involved in supporting Cllr. Beverley Coupar's project of a complete makeover of the children's playground which received a £30,000 grant from Rother Community Grants. I ran the project which has brought Ultra-Fast Fibre direct to home Broadband to the houses with the worst internet connections running from The Vineyard to Hurst Lane, Churchland Lane, the top of Balcombe Green, Brede Lane including East View Terrace and Blacklands all the way out to Powdermill reservoir.

Jonathan Vine-Hall

Independent District Councillor Sedlescombe and Westfield.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any assistance on District Council matters.

cllr.jonathan.vine-hall@rother.gov.uk

What you need to know as a dog walker in Sedlescombe.

DOG BINS

Sedlescombe has three dog bins provided and maintained by the Parish Council.

1. at the entrance to the Sportsfield next to the bridge;
2. in the Brede Lane Car Park;
3. in the Riverside Playing Field.

The emptying is arranged by Rother District Council on a weekly basis and paid for by the Parish Council from Council Tax.

Rother District Council have advised that you can also dispose of dog waste in the litter bins around the village and it will be sorted by the waste collection company.

The Public Spaces protection order (NO.1A) Rother District Council 2020 states that dogs must be kept on leads at Sedlescombe Sportsfield.

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas all year round.

The two fenced off children's play areas Riverside Recreation Ground (including the tennis courts) and at East View Terrace, (the East View Kickabout Area), Red Barn Field Nature Park.



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Please note that the inclusion of traders in this Directory neither implies nor confirms that any trader is an approved supplier or contractor to Sedlescombe PC. The Parish Council does not vouch for the financial stability of any company or for its health and safety procedures. All information is provided in good faith to assist consumers in exercising their own best judgment. No guarantee is given or implied as to the accuracy of the information provided.



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