



Udimore Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 8
March 2014

At the January Council Meeting

Next Council meeting

The Parish Council will meet on
Wednesday

19 March 2014

at 6:30pm

in Udimore Community Hall. All
are welcome to attend.

The agenda at a glance

Highways issues

Emergency planning

Volunteer Car Scheme

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council's budget: At the end of March 2014 the Parish Council will have reserves of about £8000. Present spending is about £5000 a year and income is about £6000 a year. At its January meeting the Parish Council discussed whether its annual precept should be cut from the present level of £5800 in order to limit the build-up of reserves. The level of reserves is a matter for the Parish Council but good practice suggests that the Council holds at least half of its normal annual expenditure to meet any emergencies. The Parish Council can also hold reserves against anticipated expenditures of a one-off nature. The Parish Council decided to make no change in its precept. As a result, on the basis of its budget for 2014/15, the Parish Council will have reserves of about £9000 at the end of March 2015.

The dilemma the Parish Council faces is that though its reserves are high in relation to expected annual expenditure, they are modest in comparison to the cost of most projects that the Council could consider undertaking. For instance, four traffic speed indicator devices, two at each end of the village, would cost at least £10,000.

The Parish Council therefore decided to use the **Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on 21 May**, to have an open discussion on what projects it should pursue. We hope that you will attend and contribute to the discussion.

Generator for the Community Hall: The Parish Council agreed in principle to meet the costs of installing an external socket and necessary internal re-wiring at the Community Hall so that in the event of a prolonged power cut the hall would be available as an emergency centre. However, the Parish Council



has not agreed to provide or contribute to the costs of a generator. The acquisition of a generator, which may involve substantial costs, needs to be the subject of discussion involving the Hall Management Committee, the Parish Council and residents who in one way or another will bear the costs.

Your councillors



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Udimore website

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If you haven't checked out the website, please take a look. It is regularly up-dated with full council minutes, copies of this newsletter and more.....

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Volunteer Car Scheme

The Parish Council would like to introduce a volunteer car scheme on a trial basis. The scheme would provide lifts for non-emergency visits to doctors' surgeries in Broad Oak, Northiam and Rye and to hospitals in Rye, Hastings and possibly Eastbourne.

We envisage a straight forward scheme. A person seeking a lift would phone one of the volunteers to see if he or she was available at the time requested. If the first volunteer called was not available another volunteer on the list would be approached until one was able to meet the request. It would be for the volunteer driver to decide if they wished to receive a payment to cover petrol costs. If so the cost would be 20p per mile (about £4 to and from the Conquest Hospital) which the driver would recover from the Parish Council.

What would being a volunteer involve?

1. Your name and telephone number would be on a list placed on the Parish Council website, included in the newsletter and displayed in local surgeries.
2. On receiving a request you would decide if it is convenient to offer a lift. You would not be expected to re-arrange your plans to meet the request. The intention is that the list of volunteers is sufficiently long so that a driver available at the required time would be found.
3. You decide if you want to recover the costs from the Parish Council.
4. There would be no vetting of drivers for their skills.
5. It would be for you to decide whether to inform your insurance company that you had joined the scheme. (This is advisable, and unlikely to involve any additional premium).
6. At any time and without prior notice you could ask for your name to be taken off the list.



If you would like to volunteer please contact our clerk, or any councillor. With sufficient volunteers we can get the scheme up and running soon and join the other 50 or so community volunteer transport schemes in East Sussex.

Your District and County

Information provided by Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council and other authorities within our county is passed on were it appears to be relevant or helpful to Udimore residents. The accuracy of this information is the responsibility of the originating authority and not Udimore Parish Council.

Garden Waste Recycling

From the summer 2014 Rother District Council will be charging for this service. Residents were asked to sign up by 6th January if they wanted to continue to receive this door step collection of garden waste, at an annual charge of £25. If you missed this date but would like to receive the service, Rother have opened a waiting list and will try to accommodate these additional requests. To find out more visit the website



<http://www.rother.gov.uk/gardenwaste>

Or call customer services on 0843 104 77 88

Superfast broadband



ESCC has confirmed that the Brede exchange, which serves Udimore, is scheduled for up-grading in 2015. This is part of an installation of 400 new green street cabinets and 1000km of fibre cabling

Udimore planning applications



All planning applications are decided by Rother District Council. Udimore Parish Council is always notified of new applications in the parish so that it can submit relevant local information or comments to the planning department at Rother DC.

Since your last newsletter there have been no planning decisions. There are however two decisions pending.

RR/2014/220/P St Mary's Church Hall- application to vary permitted hours

RR/2014/247/P Farleys- new vehicular access

Full details of all applications and decisions can be found at

<http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/361/Online-Applications-and-Decisions>