



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter – May 2021

May Parish Council Meeting

- Cllrs discussed the application for installation of ground mounted solar PV array and associated infrastructure. Residents are encouraged to read the papers available online at:
<https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/KCC/TM/0090/2021>
The full Parish Council's response to the Planning Application will be circulated separately.
- Parish Council meetings can no longer be held virtually after 6th May, with national advice being to hold meetings after 21st June because of Covid regulations and the roadmap. For this reason, the Parish Council has decided to cancel the June meeting. The next meeting will take place in the main hall of the Village Hall to allow for social distancing and will be held on Tuesday 6th July.
- Discussions with the cricket club about a requested lease, or deed of variation, allowing them to use Cosgrave Field have been postponed for the foreseeable future.
- Steve Rickett and Caroline Dyer sadly announced their resignations from the Parish Council and their roles as Chairman and Vice Chairman. They have both contributed enormously to the Parish Council and given up a huge amount of time to benefit the village in whatever way they could.
- Cllr Charles Unter was elected as the new Chairman of the Parish Council and Cllr Robin Taylor was elected as the new Vice-Chairman. They are both congratulated on their new roles.
- There are vacancies for two Councillors. Please contact the Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors if you are interested. The formal TMBC Notice is included at the end of this newsletter.

Offham Parish Council Meetings

There will be no meeting in June. The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the main hall of Offham Village Hall on Tuesday 6th July at 7.30pm.

The Parish Council has a new contact phone number – 07563 606573. The Clerk works for 12 hours a week, so outside of these hours please leave a message.

To contact the Parish Council please email: clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk

For more information, please go to our website www.offham-pc.gov.uk

Thanks to Mike Rowe and the Offham Society who have highlighted the following scam to be aware of:

Unexpected Parcel Delivery Scam

I would like to warn you of a recent scam where a DPD driver mistakenly delivers a parcel to your address shortly to be followed by arrival of another driver appearing to be from DPD who says that parcel has been delivered to the wrong address; he asks to be given the parcel which he says he will deliver to the (second) right address.

In this instance the resident bravely refused to hand over the parcel to the second driver, saying he would deliver the parcel; on investigation at the second address the parcel was revealed to contain an expensive item that hadn't been ordered by the resident.

It would appear to be a scam where the second driver (who may not be from DPD at all) goes away with the goods that have been paid for unknowingly by someone else.

Apparently this scam stems from use of a cloned credit card where the unfortunate victim is charged with the cost of the goods that the thieves then arrange to have delivered to the second address by one means or another, such as 'if out deliver to number X' where they collect them. Police advice is:-

"If goods are delivered that you have not ordered and are marked with your address you should inform the company that sent it and wait for them to send a courier. Always check with them which courier company is making the collection and when they will arrive. If someone knocks on the door claiming to have come to pick it up after it was delivered by mistake, think twice about handing it over. Are they from the same company that just delivered it? Can you see a company vehicle? Just because they are in a uniform does not mean they are from the company as they claim.

If possible, don't accept or sign for parcels you haven't ordered. Refuse to accept it so that it goes back to the depot or the sender.

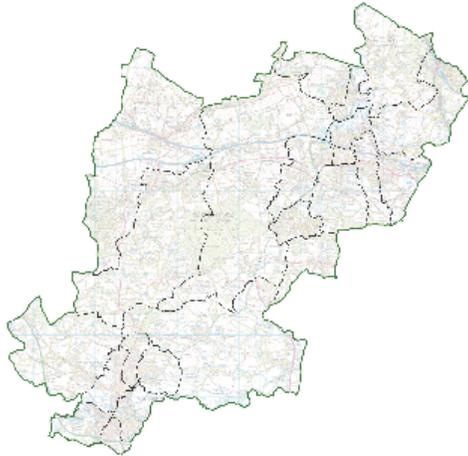
You should not hand the parcel over to someone calling at your door unless you have made a prior arrangement for its collection and you are able to check the identity of the caller.

If you realise a parcel you have received is something you have not ordered, you should immediately contact the company to arrange for its collection. Remember to ask how to ensure the identity of the person collecting it.

If you have already handed over a package in the circumstances described contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via www.actionfraud.police.uk "

Have your say

Tonbridge and Malling Electoral Review



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking for your views on our electoral review of Tonbridge and Malling. The review will agree new ward boundaries across the council.

- Do you have suggestions about where your ward boundaries should be?
- Where do people in your area go to access local facilities, such as shops and leisure activities?
- Which areas do you identify as your local community?

Consultation closes: 19 July



reviews@lgbce.org.uk



www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
www.lgbce.org.uk



Review Officer (Tonbridge and Malling), LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE



Volunteers' Week takes place 1-7 June every year.

This Volunteers' Week, we are encouraging everyone to take the time to say thank you to all volunteers! It goes without saying that volunteers have played a key role in the pandemic response. During an exceptionally difficult year, people from all walks of life around the UK have taken the time to volunteer and made a huge difference in their communities – just as they do every year.

Volunteers' Week 2021 is a time for us to come together and thank all volunteers for their invaluable contribution.

Every day of Volunteers' Week 2021 has a different focus:

- Tuesday 1 June – Volunteers' Week launch: a time to say thanks
- Wednesday 2 June – the Power of Youth - #iwill campaign
- Thursday 3 June – Employer Supported and Skilled Volunteering
- Friday 4 June – Home Nations Priorities
- Saturday 5 June – Environmental and conservation (World Environment Day)
- Sunday 6 June – The Big Lunch (Eden Project Communities)
- Monday 7 June – Volunteers' Week Close – A time to say thanks

<https://volunteersweek.org/get-involved/>

Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers

Here is our latest update which I hope you can find space for in your newspaper, magazine or on your web pages. From next month I expect to be able to send you a list of walk routes and dates as we used to. Meanwhile...

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. We offer a variety of group walks on Sunday mornings and an additional mid-week ramble most weeks. Our walks are usually circular and about 5-6 miles in duration, with the option of a shorter walk on some routes.

We explore the beautiful Kent countryside from different starting points within Tonbridge and Malling and, occasionally, further afield. You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try out a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join.

Our group walks follow Ramblers Covid-19 safety guidelines and we collect contact details for test and trace purposes. To find out how you can book to join a walk, please email info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk. Or take a look at our website: <http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk>.

Looking after our footpaths

We try to ensure that public footpaths within Tonbridge & Malling are readily accessible to all walkers. We have footpath observers in each parish who report issues such as broken stiles and gates; broken or missing footpath signs; fallen trees and other obstructions. If you are out walking and encounter a problem, please do raise an alert. You can do this by logging the fault on the Kent Country Council website (search for 'KCC public rights of way').

PARISH COUNCIL OFFHAM
OF

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

There is a vacancy on the above Parish Council due to:

RESIGNATION

For an election to be held to fill the casual vacancy for the above Parish, a request in writing to the Proper Officer must be received within 14 days (dies non) from the date shown at the bottom of this notice from ten electors from the Parish.

The address for the Proper Officer is:

Ms Julie Beilby
Chief Executive & Proper Officer
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

If no valid request is received, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Signed Lynne Mackie Date 06.05.21
Clerk to the Parish Council

Notes

1. Dies Non are 'working days', so exclude Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
2. For further information about the election process, please contact Electoral Services at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting, email voting@tmbc.gov.uk or call 01732 876022.
3. For further information about the co-option process, which the Parish Council will follow if no valid request for an election is received, please contact the Parish Clerk.