



RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council April Meeting

- Cllr McKinlay expressed the Parish Council's sadness at the Death of The Duke of Edinburgh. Cllrs agreed to send a message of condolence on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Annual Reports have been submitted by County Councillor Sarah Hohler and Borough Councillors Ann Kemp and Piers Montague. These are available on the Parish Council website.
- Tim Butler has resigned from The Parish Council and was thanked for his hard work. There is a vacancy for a Councillor which is being advertised. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact the Clerk clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk. Information about being a Parish Councillor and the work of Parish Councils is at the end of this newsletter.
- Cllr McKinlay represented Ryarsh Parish Council at a meeting with The Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott and Kent Police. She reported at the frustration of residents with the increase in crime in the area, and the sense that the police were not taking enough action. The Police indicated they understood and changes would be made. Councillors noted there has been an increased police presence in the village during the last month.
- The May Annual Parish Council Meeting and monthly Parish Council meeting has been changed to Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 8pm. This meeting will be held virtually.
- Virtual Meetings cannot be held after 6th May, and Covid restrictions do not permit face to face meetings until 21st June, so there will be no monthly Parish Council Meeting in June.
- There will be a return to face to face monthly meetings from Monday 12th July.

Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, 1921-2021

Message from KCC Comms Team

Following the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh we know that many of you will be wanting to pay tribute to him and offer condolences to Her Majesty The Queen at this sad time.

Our priority remains to keep everyone safe and, due to the current public health guidelines and lockdown restrictions around COVID-19, we will not be providing books of condolences at our buildings.

We would like to encourage you to leave your tributes to The Duke of Edinburgh by signing the book of condolence on the website of The Royal Household.

You can find the book of condolence at www.royal.uk.

If you are unable to access the online book of condolence you are welcome to send your tribute in writing to the following address;

Tribute to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, The Civic Office, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone ME14 1XQ

The Royal Household has requested that members of the public do not leave floral tributes or gather in public places to offer their respects. The Palace has suggested that people could donate to charity instead, if they wish to do so



Kent County Council

County Councillor Sarah Hohler's Annual Report is available on the Parish Council's website. Cllr Hohler was thanked for her help and support to the village.



Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Borough Councillors' Ann Kemp and Piers Montague's Annual Report is available on the Parish Council website.



Kent Police

A monthly crime report for Ryarsh is included at the end of the newsletter.

London Road Ryarsh - Between 4:00pm on Saturday 3rd of April and 8:06am on Sunday 4th of April. Somebody broke into a shed at a residential property.

Ryarsh Village Hall

A date will shortly be circulated for a working party to clear up the Recreation Ground and around the Village Hall to prepare for re-opening. Volunteers are sought and details will be sent out shortly.

The fence around the John Brookes Memorial Garden is to be replaced.



Highways Updates and Road Closures

Woodgate Road will be closed from Monday 19th April for up to two days between 7am and 9pm.

East Street will be closed on Monday 19th April for up to one day.

Details are later in the newsletter.

Next Parish Council meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 8pm followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting.

You can contact the Clerk by email at clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk.
For more information, please go to our website www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk



**PUBLIC
NOTICE**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

EAST STREET, RYARSH

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 – Section 14 (2)

Kent County Council gives notice that East Street, Ryarsh will be closed to through traffic, on 19th April 2021 for up to 1 day.

Please note this road will not be closed at the same time as the closure on Woodgate Road.

The road will be closed at adjacent to the junction of Wood Gate Road.

There is no alternative diversion route due to dead end road.

This closure is necessary to enable urgent carriageway repairs to be carried out by Kent County Council.

This Notice applies when the relevant signs and barriers are on site and is valid for a period of no more than 5 days.

Signed for and on behalf of the Kent County Council,
Simon Jones, Director of Highways Transportation & Waste, or by his authorised signatory.

Authorised Signatory

Dated this 14th day of April 2021
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

Ryarsh

Contacts

csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk Contact your local team

<https://www.kent.police.uk/> Report online, check statistics, information on your area.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> Road Safety Information

March 2020

Information provided by: PCSO 59862 James Robinson Community Safety Unit

Crime Series or Crimes of Note

8 March – Home owner has disturbed a male trying to break in to his garage in Roughetts road, home owner shouted at male and male ran off, no entry gained and nothing taken.

20 March – Report of males on site with torches on Roughetts road, possibly burglary.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

25 March – Report of flytipping on workhouse road.

Items of good work:

Report of two males on site on Roughetts road on 20 March, vehicle was stopped and two males arrested for burglary.

Report of flytipping on workhouse road reported to the council to remove.

Ryarsh Parish Councillor Vacancy

Parish, Town, Neighbourhood, Community or Village Councils in England are colloquially known as “Local Councils”.

Could You Be A Councillor?

Any person 18 years of age and older who is a local government elector, lives or works in the parish or lives within three miles of the area of the Local Council may stand for election.

Councillors are subject to their Council’s Code of Conduct and must complete a Declaration of Interest form which will be publicly available.

What Will You Do If Elected?

- Attend Council meetings and raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to take action.
- Make informed contributions and influence debate at meetings.
- Receive training for your role.
- Represent the Council externally

So Who Controls the Local Council?

In short, you do. Parish electors vote for Local Council members every four years and are entitled to go to the Annual Meeting and say what they think. Council meetings are also open to the public to observe (but not participate in) and there is usually an opportunity for informal discussion when the meeting is adjourned.

Local Councils are public bodies and subject to the Freedom of Information Act and GDPR laws.

Who Supports Local Councils?

Local Councils in England are supported by 38 County Associations of Local Councils that provide legal, procedural and other advice. They provide relevant training for Councillors and representational services too. In Kent, Local Councils are represented by the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC). www.kentalc.gov.uk

A Little About Local Councils

- Established by legislation in 1894, the first tier of local government in England - there are around 10,000 local councils with around 80,000 local councillors.
- Elected representative body of the local community. Provide services to meet local needs, improve quality of life and well-being in the community.
- Statutory bodies with certain duties and legal powers. They are democratically and financially accountable to the local community.
- Have the legal right to be informed about planning applications and other issues.
- Give the local community a more powerful voice.
- Help support local groups in their area. This may be through funding, provision of meeting places, or through publicity. This could include voluntary groups that help young people or the older generation to name but a few.
- May take on some devolved duties from the “Principal Authorities”, Kent County Council, Medway Unitary Authority and the twelve District and Borough Councils in Kent. The Principal Authorities are responsible for Education, Transport, Planning & Development, Waste Collection and Disposal, Housing, Licensing and Street Trading.

Local Council Services Local Councils have a range of specific, yet discretionary powers and can provide, maintain and/or contribute to services in their community. Here are a few examples:

- Village Halls, Community Centres and leisure facilities.
- Local youth projects
- Bus shelters, car parks, and community transport schemes.
- Crime reduction measures - CCTV and dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Cycle paths and traffic calming measures.
- Festivals, celebrations, illuminations and tourist activities.
- Allotments, parks and open spaces. ● Community Safety Schemes
- Litter bins, street lighting and Street cleaning.
- Parish and neighbourhood Plans

And What Else?

- Local Councils can raise money to spend on public purposes through their “precept” which is collected through the local Council Tax. Most of that money is invested back into the local community to improve facilities and services. Many local councils also supplement the precept by obtaining grants. Sometimes they own property and can use the money from rents and leases. They can also generate income through running their community facilities.
- Local Councils are the least bureaucratic kind of local authority. Their funds are a tiny part of the Council Tax with an average cost across England of less than £65/year to Council tax payers. They get no general government grant so they have every incentive to keep their expenditure low and get value for money.
- The Localism Act 2011 gives more authority to Local Councils. For instance, the General Power of Competence will provide eligible Local Councils with the power to do anything an individual can do unless it is specifically prohibited by law. Other measures contained in the Localism Act include Community Right to Bid, Community Right to Build, Community Right to Challenge, Neighbourhood Planning and the Community Infrastructure Levy.