



## RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL

### January Parish Council Meeting

- The Parish Council met on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- Meetings are now being held in Ryarth Church Hall, Church Road, Ryarth, ME19 5LB and begin at 7.30pm.
- Parish Councillors expressed their sadness at leaving Ryarth Village Hall for their meetings, where they have met for decades. A booking has been taken at 8pm that clashes with the Parish Council meeting making it impossible to conduct a public meeting at that time due to the noise. An existing long standing booking makes it impossible to begin the meeting earlier, again due to the noise. The Parish Council does in fact own the Village Hall, but this is leased to Ryarth Village Hall who manage it.
- The Parish Council is very grateful to Ryarth Church Hall for making the hall available for Parish Council meetings. This is a great venue, and residents are welcome to attend.

### 2024-2025 BUDGET

The 2024-2025 budget was discussed by Cllrs and agreed as follows:

Employment Costs	£14,409
Clerk - Travel	£200
Councillor Expenses	£200
Training	£560
Admin and Office Supplies	£300
Professional Fees	£2,280
Hall Hire	£320
Streetlights	£8,300
Play Area	£11,150
Open Spaces	£1,700
Parish Property	£3,700
Burial Grounds – Grass Cutting	£1,200
Insurance	£1,700
Audit	£450
Donations	£1,400
Subscriptions	£450
Bus Funding	£220
APM, Community Award, Events	£500
Contingency	£2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£51,039</b>

- The budget for 2023-2024 was £49,495, so this is an increase of £1,544.
- The Parish Council has looked carefully at its spending. This has been a challenging financial year, with particular pressure from the rising cost of electricity. The cost has doubled from the previous year, meaning the cost of electricity alone cost £3,500 more than in 2022-2023.
- The Parish Council is also facing new spending, such as hall hire costs, a contribution to the trial bus service in the village, and planned projects, such as a new Notice Board to replace the worn one on Birling Road and a bench for Ryarth Park.

- The Parish Council has looked to make savings where it can. For example, for decades the Parish Council has paid for grass cutting of the Recreation Ground. The Recreation Ground is in fact owned by Ryarsh Village Hall Trust. This year the maintenance contract would amount to 10% of the Parish Council's precept which is a significant amount. Councillors have decided not to run and manage the maintenance contract for grass cutting and pitch marking but will instead consider a donation towards the costs. The Village Hall Trust can manage the contract, and work the cuts needed around the Hall and Recreation Ground hirings.
- Parish Councillors are unpaid and give their time for the benefit of the village, helping with checking the play area equipment, streetlights, defibrillator and Book Box.

### **2024 – 2025 PRECEPT REQUEST**

Parish Councils issue a precept each year, which is the amount of money they require from Council Tax payers in their area. TMBC work out the amount for each tax band, which is shown on your bill with the percentage change from the previous year. TMBC collect the precept with the Council Tax and pass that on to the Parish Council.

Cllrs Agreed to make a precept request of £29,343. This amounts to £77.80 per Band D Property. The precept represents an increase of £1.90 from 2023-2024 per Band D property. This is a precept increase of 3.5% and an increase per Band D property of 2.5%.

The Parish Council will fund the balance of the budget from reserves, and will look for grant funding towards any new equipment in the play area.

### **TMBC**

Borough Councillors Banks and Boxall attended the Parish Council meeting. There were discussions about planning applications and fly tipping in the village.

### **Police**

Between 19.30 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January and 08.50 on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, both number plates were stolen from a Volkswagen Polo parked on London Road in Ryarsh.

### **KALC Community Awards and Ryarsh Village Awards**

The recipients of the awards have been agreed. Details of the presentations will be shared later.

### **Next Parish Council meeting**

The date of the January meeting is **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**, 7.30pm, at Ryarsh Church Hall.

You can contact the Clerk by email at [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk). For more information, please go to our website [www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk)



## Guided group walks – February 2024



Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation.

We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

*View from the Greensand Ridge – see 4 February walk*

For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders, see our [Facebook page](#) or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk).

Sunday 4 February	Circular walk from Ide Hill to Bayley's Hill along the Greensand Ridge. Moderate difficulty.	4.8 miles
Thursday 8 February	An interesting walk over the hills from the Westerham to Chartwell with good views of the North Downs on the return. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Thursday 15 February	Circular walk from Stansted on footpaths and quiet country lanes, passing through the hamlets of Fairseat and Hodsell Street. Three ascents and ten stiles; walking poles recommended. Moderate difficulty.	6.5 miles
Sunday 18 February	Circular walk from Wadhurst to Bewl Water. Moderate difficulty.	6 miles
Wednesday 21 February	Circular walk from Mereworth church. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Thursday 29 February	Circular walk from Harrietsham along field paths and tracks with some slopes. Includes part of the North Downs Way with excellent views of the surrounding countryside. Quite a few stiles, mostly in good order. Moderate difficulty.	5.9 miles

Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).