

Following on from last night's (14th May) Parish Council meeting where Mel Philipson officially stood down as the Chair, I have been duly elected to continue in her footsteps. My name is Mark Griggs, I've been a resident of Sandhurst since 1996, married to Julie, who most of you will probably know and together we have two grown up children, Sophie and Will, living in Palo Alto, San Francisco and Canary Wharf, London. I have been a Parish Councillor since 2019 and Vice Chair since 2020

Firstly I would like to express my thanks to Mel for steering the PC with efficiency and enthusiasm over the previous year, and it is with real sadness that Mel and her husband Paul (also a Parish Councillor) are leaving the village.

I can only hope to continue the good work that Mel has achieved since becoming Chair and to that end I will endeavour to carry out my duties to the best of my ability. Will we always manage to please everyone? No, but fortunately we have a dedicated group of people who make up the Parish Council. So along with the excellent clerk, Julie Horan, they will ensure that any decisions we make will be for the right reasons and that is to the benefit of you, the residents of Sandhurst.

I would also like to welcome to the council, Denis O'Neil and Julie Griggs, two newly co-opted councillors, taking our number back to seven. We lose one married couple and gain two more! We do however still have two councillor vacancies, so if you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the clerk at sandparishclerk@outlook.com or 01580 850273.

It saddens me to report a recent act of vandalism at the playground. Not only is this an unnecessary expense for the council to undertake the repairs but the damaged climbing frame has to be closed off until repaired, causing disappointment to those who want to use it. As Mel mentioned last month, please report any incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to Kent Police, either by phoning 999, or 101 for non-emergencies, or via the website: www.kent.police.uk

Another successful Speedwatch period took place during the last week of April and beginning of May. The Speedwatch team were joined by PC Jason Wright Community Speedwatch Support Officer and together they recorded just over 10% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The team are always looking for new members to boost their numbers, thus allowing them to undertake more sessions when they have the equipment. Please contact the clerk if interested.

Please make a note in your diaries of the Annual Parish Meeting, which will take place on 25th June at the Old School Hall at 7pm. There will be guest speakers and it is an opportunity to meet and chat with the councillors. Refreshments will be served and it'll be great to see you there.

Don't forget that the Parish Office is open on Thursday mornings 10am - 12pm and if you have an upcoming function and would like to hire the Old School Hall please contact the clerk.

Thanks for reading, until next month.

Best wishes,

Mark

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