

Our Community— Working Together

September 2017 Annual Report

Change Happens

2016 and 2017 have been years of change in the local community with new head teachers at both our schools and a new Vicar at St Helens (and 'abolition' of the Rector title that had been a feature of St Helens for hundreds of years).

On the parish council Gary Clark was co-opted to replace Jerry Doyle, but has since resigned. Annette Cooper was elected in April to replace Ian Petrie who also resigned and then Andy Keates was co-opted in August to fill Gill Moore's loss. There is a vacancy in Cliffe Woods. On the staff front Susan Hibbert joined as the 'Responsible Finance Officer' to take over from Laura Farrelly who had been doing the job for five years, and after many years as caretaker cover and then doing the job on a permanent basis Dave Clark retired and has been replaced by his 'holiday cover' Michael Johnson (there is a vacancy for Michael's cover now).

Around the parish there are many people who volunteer their time, expertise and experience to keep many local organisations running. From St Helens, Cliffe Community Church and the Emmanuel Centre in Cliffe Woods to the Memorial Hall in Cliffe and the Community Centre in Cliffe Woods and many other local groups.



With this support the villages are a much better place but more help is always needed to ensure these vital organisations and groups survive. If you can help in any way please do contact them. All support is appreciated, be it an hour or two a month or a larger commitment.

This Clarion reports on some of the activities of the parish council and other organisations and groups around the parish.

Cllr Sue McDermid (Chair, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council)

Anti-Social Behaviour

The parish council, like many residents continues to be concerned about the amount of anti-social behaviour in the parish and often the apparent lack of support from the police. The majority of residents really appreciate the local area, but a small minority continue to spoil it for others. Sometimes this may be minor verbal abuse, but often criminal damage to local facilities. The council encourages residents to report incidents on 101 (999 for more serious incidents). The local police continue to struggle with resources and our PCSOs are often taken away from the area and used in the towns (our latest PCSO is also being moved and we are waiting for news of her replacement).

Gill Moore

The Parish Council was deeply saddened to hear of Gill's sudden and unexpected death. Gill was a much valued and respected member of the Parish Council. Her love for her village and her local community shone through in everything she did. She was passionate about the cultural heritage, wildlife and unique environment of this special area which she cherished and worked tirelessly to preserve.

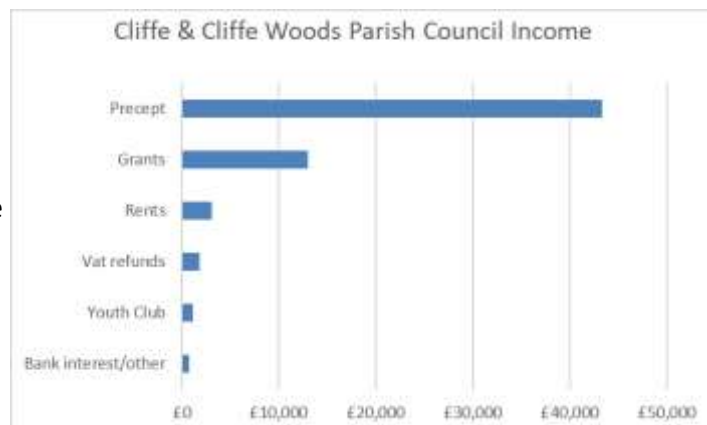
Gill had served as a parish councillor for many years and her contribution to the council and local community will be greatly missed. We pay tribute to her for her service and all she achieved.



Parish Council Finance Report

To carry out the work it does the Parish Council receives an annual precept from Medway Council. This precept is an element of your council tax bill and in 2016/17 we received £42,322 which works out at around £25 per household per year.

We also received from Medway an annual amount of money in the form of a Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant of £2,773 and a Rural Liaison Grant of £4,880. These two pots of money from Medway are discretionary and cannot be relied upon to be provided each year. We also actively seek out grants and other monies which can be used to support and enhance community projects and facilities and in 2016/17 received a grant of £5,340 towards the cost of putting together our Neighbourhood Plan. Smaller amounts of income are also received from allotments and pitch-hire rental, Vat refunds, Youth Club subs/tuck and bank interest.



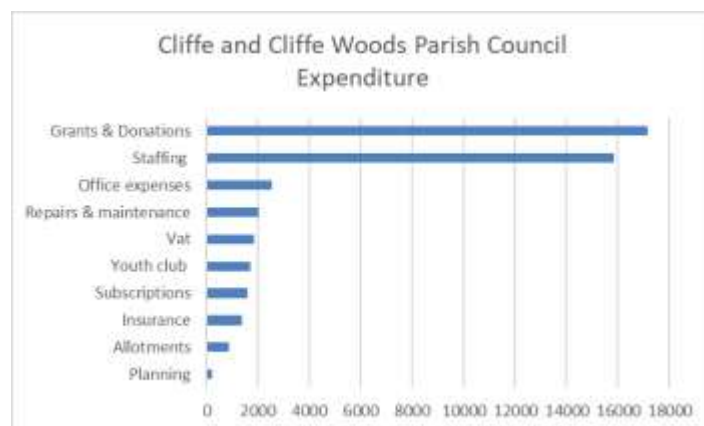
Grants & donations expenditure for 2016/17 was around £17,100. Annual grants of £5,000 were made by the Parish Council to each of our village halls, to assist with running costs and help keep them viable for the benefit of local people. £1,000 was also given to St Helen's Church for the purposes of maintaining the churchyard and we hope to be able to continue to do this.

The Parish Council will consider other requests for small donations to local charities and not-for-profit community groups which will benefit the whole parish community. During 2016/17 £400 was given to Cliffe Woods Guides and Brownies, £400 to "Cliffe in Bloom" and small sums to the Cliffe-at-Hoo-Historical Society and the NHP Steering Group. The defibrillators at Cliffe Fire Station and Cliffe Woods Community Centre along with the cycle hoops at Cliffe Woods shops were paid for by the Rural Liaison grant monies we received.

Although the Parish Councillors work voluntarily, Parish Clerks and the caretaker are employees of the Parish Council. Along with these staffing costs of £15,800, 'office' expenses were £2,500, including stationery, printing, the parish telephone, and any other costs associated with the administration of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep of the car park in Cliffe Woods, the small hall car park in Cliffe, the Buttway, play area, recreation ground and allotments in Cliffe. Repairs and maintenance costs for these in 2016/17 were around £2,000.

We must also pay Vat like any other business, although this expenditure is refunded by HMRC (Vat receipts). Other smaller amounts of expenditure included subscriptions for parish councillors/clerks to NALC (National Association for Local Councils) and KALC (Kent association for Local Councils), councillor training, insurance and water bills for the allotment site.




For 2017/18 Medway Council increased its Council tax by almost 5% (including a premium of 3% for Social Care). The Parish Council decided to only increase the precept by 2% to £44,109. You will have noticed this shows up on your council tax bill as a slightly smaller increase of 1.7%. This means that our precept for a Band D rated house is still only just over 50p per week. We will also receive the CTRS and RL grants again this year.

Allotment rental prices have also been increased from 1 April 2017 as these had not been increased for two years. However, our prices below remain extremely good value and are still one of the lowest in the Medway area.

Plot description	Plot Size	Description	2016.17 £	2017.18 £	Increase £
Band A	935cms-1500cms		20.90	23.00	2.10
Band B	1501cms-2000cms		23.10	25.50	2.40
Band C	2001cms-2500cms		25.30	27.90	2.60
Band D	2501cms-3000cms		27.50	30.30	2.80
Band E	3000cms-3500cms		29.70	32.70	3.00
Band F	Half plot		16.50	18.20	1.70

Planning

The parish council are consulted on every planning application in our area, and those on our boundary with Kent County Council (Gravesham) and other parish councils as well as strategic policies like Local Plans. There have been some major planning applications in the parish area and there could be more in the future as the Medway Local Plan looks for sites to build almost 30,000 houses in the Medway area (some of these have been built already in Wainscott, Upnor, Chattenden, Cuxton/Halling and Hoo with other sites in the 'pipeline'). The parish council considers every application on its merits and responds. However, the final decision is usually taken by Medway Council (an officer's decision or their Planning Committee). When the parish council do object this is on planning grounds and local issues, but the final decision is taken by Medway, or sometimes by a Planning Inspector on appeal.



Cllr Fred Harper (Chair C&CW Planning Committee)

Medway Local Plan

The current Medway Local Plan dates from 2003 and two attempts to update it have failed at the last stage (primarily related to the inclusion of 5,000 houses at Lodge Hill). Now Medway Council are working on a third attempt that will have to show alternative locations for those 5,000 homes and also where the other c. 25,000 will go. After public consultations in January 2016 and 2017, the plan will be looking to show where these will go (and why they have disregarded other sites offered by owners/developers) with further consultation in January 2018). The parish council (and many others) suggested using previously developed land and more effective use of land in the town centres (where there are more facilities and services) as a priority, but there will also be a need to allocate some land on the Hoo peninsula (as the old local plan does not allocate enough land, we are seeing speculative planning applications across the Hoo peninsula and Cliffe Woods and some have been granted permission). The new plan will not be adopted until 2019.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Neighbourhood Plan

Recognising the problems with an out of date Local Plan, the parish council agreed to support the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish council area in 2015. A steering group was formed to start the work, but initial progress had been slow due to the amount of work required by the volunteer steering group. In 2016, the parish council were awarded grants to support public consultation and the appointment of a qualified 'Project Manager' to advise and support the group. A series of public workshops have now been completed and a further Planning Consultant will be appointed soon to help the steering group write a draft plan. The aim is to consult on this in early 2018, with a possible referendum in the summer and adoption in August. If approved, this will mean that Medway Council need to take our plan into consideration when they look at any planning applications in our parish council area and reflect this in their local plan – giving us some local influence in how the parish area develops.

(delivered with this Clarion is a Housing Needs Survey. Please complete this and return it in the pre-paid envelope. This will help the Neighbourhood Plan understand the LOCAL housing need for our area).

Parking on Village Streets

In both 2005 and 2015 Parish questionnaires, the problems of vehicle traffic and parking on local streets have been a very big concern. The parish have been working with Medway Council to identify the most serious safety issues caused by parking and some additional yellow lines have been implemented in Cliffe Woods.

There will be some further consultation on a few additional roads in Cliffe Woods and a scheme for roads in Cliffe, by Medway Council, in the next month or two. The parish council support these as long as they are enforced, and that has been promised by Medway Council.

Recording History

The parish council maintains an archive of photographs (usually a selection is displayed at the Cliffe Fayre each year). If you have any photos of Cliffe or Cliffe Woods that you think might be interesting please let us know.

Doctors

The Parish Council has representatives on the Patient Participation Groups of Highcliffe Medical Practice in Cliffe and The Parks Medical Practice in Cliffe Woods. This allows for continued liaison with both surgeries and the opportunity to exchange information and raise any issues.

Demand for GP appointments and a requirement for GPs to provide more services, amongst other reasons, has resulted in unprecedented pressure on practices and staffing levels. The Parks Medical Practice is collaborating with Highcliffe Surgery to review new professional clinical roles and recruitment to both staff teams.

288 Additional Houses in Cliffe Woods ?

Gladmans Land West of Town Road

The outline application for 225 houses on farm land to the west of the B2000/Ladyclose/Mortimers was submitted in September 2016. Previously the site would probably have been refused as it is outside the 'village boundary' of Cliffe Woods, but as there is no up to date Local Plan, developers are able to submit this sort of application. After publicity on the parish council website, a public meeting (joint with the MP) and campaigning by local residents a strong objection was submitted by the parish council (alongside 100s of local residents). **The application was refused by Medway Council's Planning Committee, but Gladmans have appealed against the decision and a public inquiry will be held on the 28th November (for about 6 days). The parish council have been approved as one of the key bodies represented at the inquiry and will be able to see all the documentation and call their own witnesses if appropriate.**

An outline application includes details of access to the B2000, informal open space and a play area – other details would follow in a full application later.

Simpkin's Land South of View Road

The outline application for 50 retirement homes was also submitted in September 2016. A strong objection was submitted by the parish council, but we are still waiting for the Medway Council Planning Committee date for a decision.

Land on Merryboys Road

As this land is outside the Cliffe Woods village boundary, the parish council did object to the original application for nine self-build properties – the developer justified this on a local need for self-build properties (not provided in the local plan) and it was approved. After this there was a further application for 13 properties (not self-build). The parish council objected due to over-development and the overlooking of the primary school (to the rear), but recently the Medway Planning Committee has granted approval.

Rookery Lodge Update

Rookery Lodge, Thatchers Lane, Cliffe

There was concern throughout our area when MHS Homes began consultation to demolish Rookery Lodge (25 sheltered housing units) and replace it with 14 separate (semi-detached/terraced properties). The main concern was with the current residents, but also the loss of a valued provision in the area. The parish council objected on a number of grounds, including the net loss of residential properties when the local plan was looking at building new houses. The demolition of these sheltered homes was something that MHS Homes had been carrying out across Medway in recent years (starting with Harris House in Upper Halling and recently in Wainscott), but the parish felt there were special circumstances in Cliffe. However, the Medway Planning Committee have recently approved the plans. The parish council will continue to work with the current residents, if necessary, to help them with the impacts if we can.

Allotments

The year on the whole has been a good one. Allotment sites tend to be occupied by the older generation who have the time to maintain them but we are lucky in so much as we have people that work as well. It is down to what is grown as to how much time is needed to keep a plot in good working order. If soft fruit and potatoes are grown a once a week visit to tend the weeds is perfectly ok. The site is a must for the older generation as it serves as a place to keep fit as well as place to catch up with the village gossip. It is common to visit a plot with the intention of doing some work and ending up only having a cupper and a chat. We still have a few vacancies, if people think a full plot is too much we are also offering half plots as well and do maintain a waiting list.

On the down side the site is still cursed by the few who think it is fun to destroy other people's hard work, with sheds being broken into and general vandalism on the plots. We are not the only site that suffer as we hear about the same thing on many others. Our site like others is isolated and is very hard to police. We can only report when it happens and hope for support.

Cllr Peter Clements (Chair Allotments Committee)

Car Park Barriers

There have been significant unbudgeted repairs required at the car park barriers at both the Cliffe Woods Car Park (the shops), the Small Hall Car Park at the Memorial Hall and the Buttway perimeter (all owned by the Parish Council).

Cliffe Woods Car Park—Over-height vehicles have continued to damage both the entry and exit barriers and strengthened barriers have now been installed with clearer signage—if your vehicle is close to that height— DO NOT ENTER

Small Hall Car Park—The barrier to the small hall car park was requested by allotment holders due to anti-social behaviour at the rec. Despite the bright yellow colour, vehicles continued to hit the barrier and bend it so that opening and closing became more difficult. After initial repairs, further damage was caused and had to be fixed.

Buttway—The parish has replaced the fencing around the Buttway. Some of the wooden supports had been damaged by vehicles reversing into them and others are starting to rot due to age.

Cliffe Recreation Ground

The Cliffe Recreation ground is a very popular site for both local residents and others. The play area is one of the best around and the parish council carry out regular inspections of the equipment. Most of the repairs and maintenance are carried out by Cllr Jim Wenban, on a voluntary basis, with help from our caretaker, Michael Johnson, who also checks the site and clears rubbish. Fortunately most of the maintenance is due to wear & tear and the age of some of the equipment, but some is due to misuse and vandalism.

The Football Arena - The Multi-sport arena is also very popular, but we often have damage to the fencing and glass bottles smashed on the surface. There is some floodlighting (which it would be good to upgrade, if behaviour was better) and CCTV cover.

The Skate Board Park—Very popular with children of all ages – and after skateboards and BMX, the most popular use is for scooters. This was initially built with the help of local youths who raised most of the funds and helped design it. There is regular annual maintenance (c. £1,000 a year), but it does suffer from graffiti and anti-social behaviour sometimes. Glass bottles have been smashed on the riding surfaces and some fires have been lit. The caretaker does try to clear up when he is able.

The Youth Shelter—This has continued to be a cause of concern to allotment holders, local residents and the parish. It was provided in response to problems in Cliffe and gave youth somewhere to meet as well as providing cover for people or watching the Football Arena. Unfortunately, it has become a focus for anti-social behaviour, in the shelter itself, on the recreation ground, the allotments and even vehicles in the small hall car park.

The parish council has considered removing the shelter on a number of occasions, but after requests from local youth, it has remained. A previous petition also asked for the re-instatement of a refuse bin at the site (which had been removed due to damage) and the promise to look after the bin and the shelter – the new bin was damaged soon after it was re-installed and then destroyed. The shelter has been damaged by the users and is now approaching the end of its useful life and is likely to need removing soon. The parish would like residents (including youth) views on the future of this.

The Recreation Ground Pitches—In 2016, the decision was taken to add Rugby Union to Football at the rec. A team had approached the council about forming a new team in the area and this was supported by the parish council – and Cliffe Crusaders was formed. In their first year they came second in their division and are playing in a tougher league in the 2017/2018 season. There are lots of local residents who support them at both home and away fixtures on Saturdays during the season.

Two football teams also use the rec on alternate Sundays (Cliffe Woods Colts and Black Lion) and there are often requests from other teams, so additional land would be useful.

Sadly some benches have been vandalised and had to be removed, some ‘fire pits’ have been dug and fires lit – in some cases materials have been ‘stolen’ from the allotments to use as fuel.

There has also been damage caused to the pitches and surrounding grassed areas by motor cycles, intentionally spinning their wheels to cut up the surface.

New Changing Rooms

Both Football and Rugby teams are able to use Cliffe rec. on an exceptional basis. Both require proper changing room facilities (including showers and toilets) to play in their leagues, but have been given temporary permission to continue using our pitches until changing rooms are provided.

Many local residents will remember the old pavilion on the recreation ground, with a veranda and cricket scoreboard – inside was changing rooms for two teams, officials and a kitchen area. It had all year use (football, cricket, Cliffe Carnival, Cliffe 5-a-sides etc.). Unfortunately it was made of wood and was a regular target for vandals and eventually it was destroyed by fire. A temporary ‘Portacabin’ replacement, provided by a football club was also attacked and eventually destroyed.

Now that football and rugby leagues have become tougher on the need for changing facilities, the council has been looking at a permanent replacement. Although the parish had retained £13,500 towards the replacement, this was not enough, but after a planning (section 106) grant for £25,000, it became more practical if the parish could get additional grant support.

A design has now been agreed and planning permission granted. Now attention has turned to raising the funds to build them – the parish council has increased the total allocated to c.£50,000 (including the s106 money) but a further £70,000 is still needed! Grant applications are being submitted to raise the rest (although the parish will not hear until late 2017). If successful it might be possible to build them in the new year and give the football and rugby clubs the facilities they require for the following season.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community Champions

In 2016 the parish council adopted the Local Community Champion Awards, sponsored by the Sheriff of Kent and the Mayor of Medway. In 2016 the parish council nominated Linda and Tony Baldwin for their work with Friends of Chernobyl Children (Medway) and they were presented with their framed certificate at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2016. The following year we nominated Gill Moore and Joan Darwell for their work through Friends of North Kent Marshes and their work on the ‘No Airport’ campaigns and presented their certificate at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2017.

Who would you nominate – let the parish council know who you think deserves recognition.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Youth Clubs

The Cliffe Woods Youth Club (1st and 3rd Mondays each month except school holidays in the Cliffe Woods Community Centre) continues to grow from strength to strength and has recently appointed a youth worker to help – Andrew Norton. Adult help to set-up and clear up at the end of each session has really helped.

The Cliffe Youth Club – is currently closed. It was run on the third Thursday of each month (except for school holidays). It was extremely popular with local youth (generally school year 6/7), but there was difficulty in getting sufficient adult help. If a small team could be put together, it could re-open (only a couple of hours a month!) – contact clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community Trust

The Community Trust owns land around the parish, some is rented by farmers and others by horse owners. Funds raised are used to support the charity objectives of 'relief of poverty' and 'education'. Each Christmas a grant is given to the elderly and disabled of the parish (c. £60) on application (grant forms around the parish). **The charity wants your help identifying all those that would benefit from this grant (those aged over 80 are given a grant automatically).**

Grants are also given to each school to support their activities as well as the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. Sometimes individuals are helped, but the resources of the charity are limited.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Schools and Pre-Schools

The Cliffe Woods Pre-School (Charity)– is continuing to raise funds to build new accommodation in the grounds of Cliffe Woods School (which is having to expand into the area used by the Pre-School to accommodate its own growth). There are increasing demands on the Pre-School (without any new housing developments!)

The Cliffe Pre-School – Changed management in September. Dawn Hance ran the pre-school for many years and probably deserves a rest!

Cliffe St Helens – with a new Head on board, the school continues to improve.

Cliffe Woods School – OFSTED continue to rate the school as Outstanding and it continues to be very popular with local and other pupils. The school is being expanded to two forms of entry (from 1.5 forms of entry) to help satisfy current demand (a 33% growth), but the school is concerned about any further expansion to satisfy local developments due to the impact on the school culture.

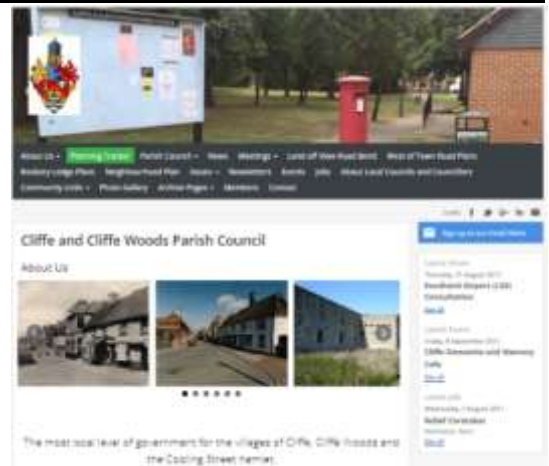
Council Information

Village Voices—The parish council aims to contribute to the Village Voices Magazine which goes through the letter boxes of almost all the homes on the Hoo Peninsula most months, so look out for our articles.

Website—The website www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk has recently been changed to a new supplier – Hugo Fox. This is easier to update than the previous site and has some additional services that allow you to request updates to News, Events, 'Jobs' or Planning Applications by email.

It also displays much better on a smart phone as it is dynamically sized depending on the device.

The Planning Tracker shows planning applications in the last 24 months (all, awaiting decision, withdrawn, refused, approved or appealed) and links to the Medway Council Online Planning Website for the details.



The Return of Passenger Trains to Cliffe?

Congestion on the B2000 and A228, in particular at peak times, does mean that alternative solutions to transport need to be looked at. As part of responses to Medway Council to their Local Plan from some bodies on the Hoo Peninsula, the use of the railway has been suggested.

The line from Hoo Junction (Higham/Shorne) to Grain (along with previous branch to Allhallows) ran passenger services until the early 1960s, but was closed, even before the 'Beeching Cuts', to passenger traffic. The Allhallows branch was lifted and the land sold to the Kingsmead Residential Park, but the rest of the line remains in use by freight to Bretts (Cliffe) and Thamesport (Grain).

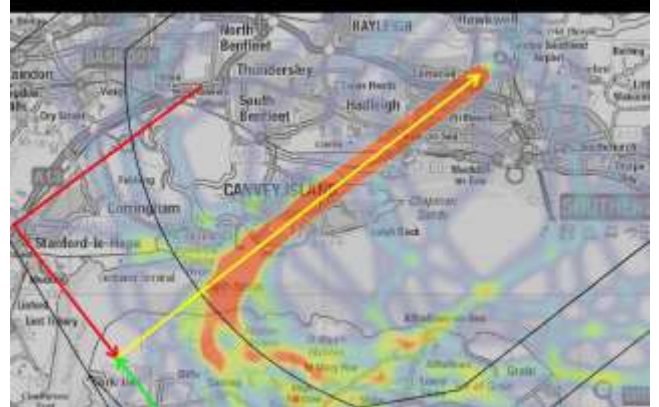
Although this had been discussed before, there were problems fitting in with other rail traffic towards London and a strong case could not be made. Now a suggestion to build a short chord at Hoo Junction and terminate trains on a shared platform at Strood has made it more practical. There is still a long way to go and it would probably take more than 10 years, if it can find third party funders. It has been suggested to Network Rail and their Kent Route Study is due to report soon.

London Southend Airport—Potential Impacts on Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

A technical consultation on changes to how arrivals are to be handled in the future at Southend Airport (Performance Based Navigation) has generated some concern about potential impacts to both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods with a possible concentration of current flights into a narrow corridor on final approach to Runway 5 from the south. The consultation finished on the 13th September (but late submissions may be accepted). The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council (Kent) have concerns regarding the suggested changes proposed in respect to PBN Southern approaches to Runway 05.

It is not clear in the document of the actual impact of the change and whether it would lead to an intensification of arrivals in a narrow area (and potentially over both villages in our parish), rather than the approaches being spread over a wider area between Cliffe and Cooling and the final arrival alignment corrections made over the Thames Estuary. Even with the current arrival routes, there is considerable noise nuisance over Cliffe village (especially as the ambient background noise levels are low in relation to other urban areas) and the land around the village and between the village and the River Thames is internationally, European and nationally designated as RAMSAR, Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest (3.1 mentions Kent Downs as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but underestimates the importance of the North Kent Marshes and the SSSI between Cliffe Woods and Chattenden).

Relocation of routes seem to indicate that planes might be routed to align with the final approach from the south to Runway 5 as far out as Cliffe Woods (another village in our parish that has a predominance of flights to London City Airport already, although at a higher level), but has not had any significant impact from LSA traffic to date and Hoo St. Werburgh (over SSSI Great Chattenden Woods), as possible paths for the new approach (figure 20). Noise levels appear to be increased at these locations. The indication is that the arrival routes would move to the west of Cliffe Village (over Cliffe Pools- RAMSAR). The alternative of final alignment over the Thames Estuary should be adopted instead of those proposed for Runway 5. It is acknowledged that with respect to airspace change, government guidance only takes account of local air quality where changes are made to flight paths below 1,000ft AGL. None of the proposals include changes below 1,000ft.



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**Local loft, Mockbeggar Farm, Town Road,
Rochester, Kent, ME3 8EU**

Relief Parish Caretaker/Groundsman required to cover holiday and sickness cover

Salary in line with National Living Wage

We are looking for a relief parish Caretaker/groundsman who can provide cover when our permanent caretaker is absent from work. We want someone who can work at short notice and be flexible and at ease in a working environment where the priorities and tasks allocated change, sometimes at short notice, on a day to day basis; He/she must have a valid UK driving licence and a reasonable level of physical fitness and strength (for lifting items and operating equipment).

The main duties of the role include:

Keeping the Buttway, play park, recreation ground and small hall car park at Cliffe and the car park and shop area at Parkside, Cliffe Woods free from dog waste, litter, and debris (including leaves and weeds).

Carrying out weekly inspections of the childrens' play areas and equipment and reporting any defects to the Parish Council.

Keeping the grass cut, edges trimmed and weeds cleared at the Cliffe play park, ball park and allotments.

**If you are interested in this role, please apply
in writing by post or email
clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk or see
contacts on the back page by the closing
date of Friday 1 October.**

Cliffe & Cliffe
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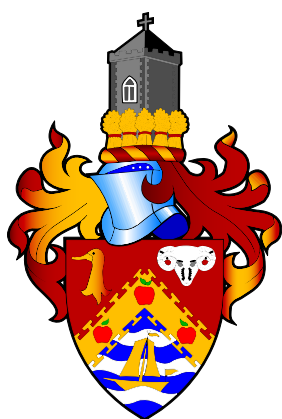
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Vice-Chair Lynne Bush

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Cliffe & Cliffe Woods
Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

Lynne Bush	222103
Peter Clements	220681
Joan Darwell	220121
Faith Evers	221148
Andy Keates	222412
Ray Letheren	222224
James Wenban	222620

Cliffe Woods Ward

Annette Cooper	222159
Derek Graves	221445
Fred Harper	220537
Ron Naughton-Dean	221764
Sue McDermid	220864
Phillip Stanley	07837 472722
Vivienne Walton	221710
VACANCY	

Hall Bookings

Cliffe Memorial Hall
and Cliffe Woods
Community Centre
host a number of
events

Apart from the social
aspect, these help
raise significant funds
for maintenance and
improvement of the
halls.

Hall Bookings

Cliffe Memorial Hall

email: cliffememorial
@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 07510676638

*Cliffe Woods
Community Centre*

email: cliffewoodshall
@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01474 824367

Village Halls

Cliffe Woods Community Centre, Parkside, Cliffe Woods

The hall is run by the Cliffe Woods Community Association (Charity) on behalf of the residents of Cliffe Woods. Since the 'new' hall was opened in 1984 it has been well maintained, but there have been plans to extend the capacity of the hall and carry out some upgrades—when funds allow. Now agreement has been received to sell-off a small piece of land at the Tennyson Avenue end for one detached or two semi-detached properties (as allowed for in its constitution). Once a planning application has been approved, the site will be sold and the funds used to carry out some significant improvements. The hall is well used with little room for additional users, so it is hoped to address some of this.



Cliffe Memorial Hall, Church Street, Cliffe

The Memorial Hall was built in the 1960s (partly funded by the sale of the land that the old 'tin-shack' cinema stood on) and extended later. The hall is run by the Cliffe Memorial Hall Management Committee and maintenance is always required. Thanks to grants from Veolia and other sources, there has been a lot invested in new windows, decoration and replacement of the old heating system.



The Small Hall has been used by the Cliffe Pre-School during term time for many years and the Main Hall hosts many regular activities as well as social events and bookings.

Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed since 1894. We are the most local level of local government. There are 16 Councillors, (8 for Cliffe Woods and 8 for Cliffe) all who work on a voluntary basis. The Council meets monthly, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. There are a small number of committees that also meet to discuss specific issues in more detail before making recommendations to the Parish Council. The Clerks manage the Parish on a day to day basis and the Caretaker looks after the recreation ground and play area in Cliffe and helps keep the Buttway and Cliffe Woods Car Park clean and tidy and helps with general maintenance. The Parish is funded through the local Council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of Medway Council, police and fire services—**this raised £46,017 in 2017/2018**, and is, for band D, < 50p per household per week! We also raise funds from other sources for larger schemes such as the Ball Court, Play Area, BMX/Skatepark, changing rooms and the allotments and receive a Rural Liaison Grant from Medway Council to spend on improvements. We are consulted on planning applications in our Parish as well as local, regional or national issues affecting our area, like the Local Plan. We also take an active part in liaising with Medway Council, the police and the longer term strategic plans for our area. We also run the Youth Club in Cliffe Woods and we want to re-open Cliffe Youth Club if we can get adult help. We also support the maintenance of the churchyard of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe (£1,000 a year) and our two village halls (£5,000 a year, each). Councillors have to stand for election every four years, if there are more nominations than positions, polling takes place on the same day as the Medway Council elections. (May 2019 is the next date). In between any vacancies can be filled by a by-election if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly additional members are co-opted. **Why not take a more active part in the community and join us as a Councillor or a non-councillor member of one of our committees (especially the Footpath and Common Land, Youth, and Allotments Committees)? Contact a Clerk or Chair for further details.**