

Stedham with Iping Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Chair's Report

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025. Thank you all for coming.

I am sure that you know us all but let me give you a bit of information about your current parish council. My name is Ruth Cooper, and I have been Chair for 9 months. My interest is the parish environment, so I organise grass cutting and planting. Terry Stevens is our mapping and poster man and organises the Tea Club. Amanda Hollingshead keeps an eye on our finances and is responsible for our annual Risk Assessment (sometimes shared with other members of the Council). She also maintains the AED and SIPC's Facebook page and is a very hands-on member of the Council. Hannah Burton puts together the Newsletter and is also a Chichester District Councillor for Midhurst and keeps us up to date with District matters and environmental issues, particularly the river. Rachael Wildman is responsible for planning. We are all in our second term, a term being 4 years. At present there are only 5 councillors and there should be 9. As we are all volunteers, our depleted numbers mean that we are not able to take on as many projects as we would like, eg parking around the village.

Over the last year we have installed an accessible roundabout in the Common View playground with an all-weather pathway to improve access. This was only possible because of a grant from SDNPA, applied for by the Council as part of the annual Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) Project Funding Award scheme. The old dome climbing-frame was removed and repurposed with willow whips planted around it to make a little playhouse. The dome was replaced with a new wooden climbing frame installed towards the end of 2023.

The Council, in conjunction with its Spring Litter-Pick distributed daffodil bulbs to the volunteers who participated in the Litter Pick. These were planted around the Parish and we plan to do more this autumn.

We seem to be focussing on Iping at the moment, not always the case, as all our current Councillors live in Stedham. We replaced the bench near to Iping Church to commemorate the end of WW2 and put the old bench in the bus shelter. We plan to mend the old bench in the near future and continue with our renovation of the bus shelter. The Iping phone box will be restored this Spring. The Council has already purchased a defibrillator which will be installed once the restoration is complete.

This summer we plan to landscape the area around the Stedham phone box, we successfully applied to SDNPA CIL for a £3000 grant last year to do this. We are supporting both the Memorial Hall and Sussex Wildlife Trust to apply to SDNPA for CIL grants for their projects.

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteer Speed Limit Action Group, who are working to reduce speed limits in both Stedham and Iping. This is a task the PC started but was unable to continue because of our depleted numbers.

Ruth Cooper

23rd April 2025