



HOOK

PARISH COUNCIL



**ANNUAL
REPORT &
ACCOUNTS
2021 – 2022**

Subject to external audit



www.hook.gov.uk

Published by Hook Parish Council, Hook Community Centre, Ravenscroft, Hook RG27 9NN

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

When I became Chair of Hook Parish Council in May 2021, the country was still recovering from the second devastating wave of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Council would like to express their own gratitude to all the NHS staff and social care staff in our area, for their heroic and selfless efforts over a very difficult two years and pay tribute to the countless local residents, who either as volunteers or as caring family, friends or neighbours, offered their help and support to those in need. Hook is a great place to live and it was heart-warming to see residents, groups and communities come together to help each other. I would like to offer sincere condolences to anybody who has lost a loved one in the past year.

In terms of the day-to-day activities of Hook Parish Council (HPC) we took a pragmatic and flexible approach, whilst complying with the various changing Covid regulations, restrictions and general advice and recommendations. I am pleased to report that the Councillors and staff worked together very effectively to ensure that none of our commitments or services were adversely affected.

In many ways 2021 was a busy year for HPC. There were the usual statutory matters that we had to complete, but there were a few unexpected issues such as storm damage. We identified a number of new projects to plan and/or initiate to enhance the experience of living in our village. For example, we started to investigate the options for replacing the popular and well-used skatepark in Hartletts Park, which is coming to the end of its useful life. We also considered the provision of community facilities adjacent to the new sports pitches in North East Hook to serve the needs of both sportsmen, sportswomen and residents alike. There will be no let up in 2022!

In the autumn, our Executive Officer, Anne Atkins, retired after 23 years of incredible service. After all that

time, Anne's knowledge of local government legislation and processes was second to none; moreover, she became a highly-valued and profoundly trusted and pragmatic advisor to the long line of Chairs and Councillors who have served on HPC over the years. Good luck in your retirement Anne! Looking to the future, we have been very fortunate in recruiting another first class, experienced Parish Clerk as Anne's successor: Sarah Dignan. Sarah has been in post since early Autumn and has "got up to speed" very quickly on local issues and the considerable history and background information behind them; she has already made a demonstrable positive impact on what we do and how we do it. Welcome Sarah!

Life in Hook was increasingly getting back to some level of normality as 2021 progressed. One stand-out highlight for me was the poppy cascade displays created by Hook In Bloom. Hand-made poppies were contributed from far and wide to create these moving tributes to 'The Fallen', that were not only beautiful to look at, but also conveyed the Armistice message to the many 'out-of-town' visitors who came to view them.

Finally, I think most residents would agree that Hook continues to be a great place to live. Even during a global pandemic. I would like to thank the HPC office staff and my fellow Councillors for their good-natured support and conscientious hard work in maintaining a high level of service to our community in the past 12 months. I would also like to thank the residents for their support too. Many embrace the ethos of 'Community' and we are never short of helpful suggestions and advice on ways to enhance the living experience in 'The Village'. Long may it continue!

Cllr Verd Nabbs
HPC Chair



PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE (P&I) COMMITTEE

The Planning & Infrastructure (P&I) Committee of seven Councillors generally meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and acts on behalf of the Council in responding to planning applications as a statutory consultee. This committee also addresses any other planning or infrastructure related matters in the Parish and liaises closely with Councillors and officers of both Hart District Council(HDC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC). The views of residents are welcomed to ensure they are taken into account when making

representations in regard to any proposals by these two authorities.

The P&I Committee has successfully dealt with all matters throughout the very difficult Covid period, firstly by virtual means then by using a hybrid format. Unfortunately, and sadly, we will shortly be losing the valued services of Annalie Hadfield who has been an excellent P&I Administrative Officer for nearly six years as she is moving on to new ventures.

OAKWOOD GRANGE

At Oakwood Grange the P&I Committee continues to seek, through representations to our District Ward Councillors, the implementation of the tarmac surfaced and well-lit pedestrian and cycle link between Barratt/David Wilson parts of NE Hook all as shown on the developers approved drawings. Over a year after occupation, residents of the Barratt dwellings still have no safe and convenient route to the village centre. The boardwalk across the open space has at last been provided with a suitable non-slip surface but is only suitable for daytime leisure use.



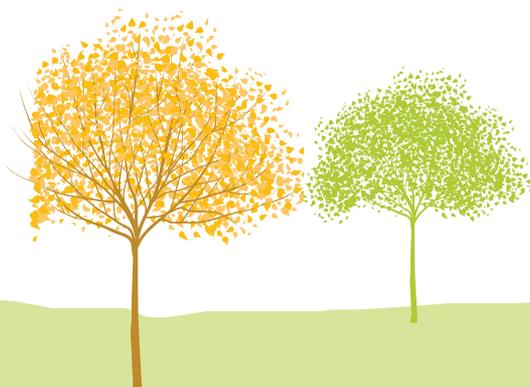
FALCON

There has been a demonstrated need for more affordable housing in Hook following an independent survey and the P&I Committee have been liaising closely with both Hart District Council and Falcon Developments for over two years to bring an appropriate provision forward. It is hoped that these residential units will soon be made available in our Parish.



CROSSWAYS PUBLIC CAR PARK

The Parish Council has contributed 50% of the cost of the one-hour free parking provided at Crossways public car park from June 2021 and better signing of the location of this car park has now been agreed with Hart District Council.



SPEED LIMITS ON B3349

The Parish Council continues to pursue the case for a reduced speed limit on Griffin Way North within the village boundary and has made several attempts to engage with Hampshire County Council on this matter to improve safety on this part of the B3349, particularly around the pedestrian crossing point currently located in a 50mph zone adjacent to the new Barratt estate.



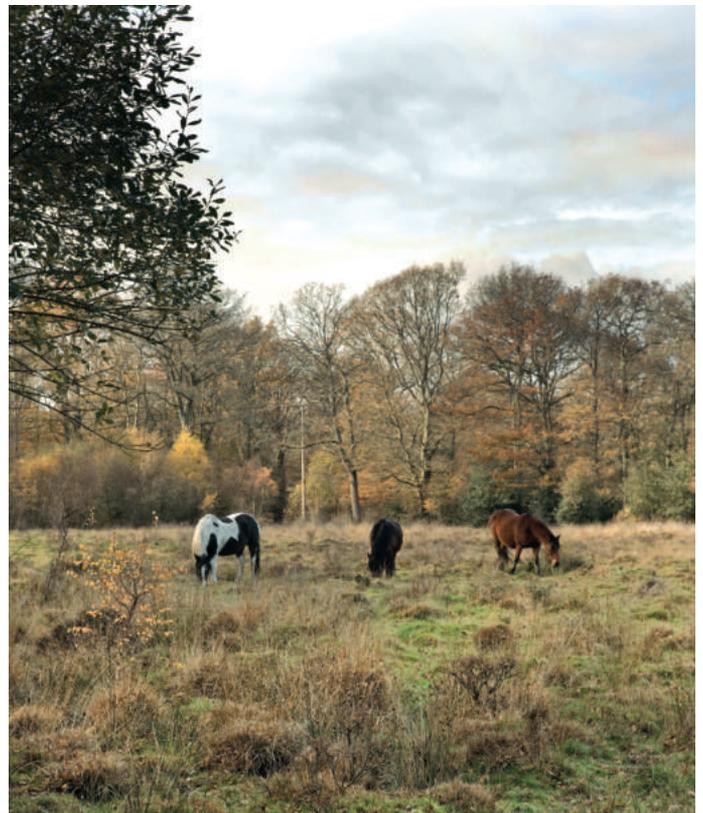
NEW VETS

Planning permission for a new enlarged veterinary facility at Holt Lane was granted in July. The relocation of the vets from the existing location at Bell Meadow Road will enable redevelopment of a larger land parcel adjoining Station Road, forming part of the wider village centre regeneration.



BARTLEY WOOD BUSINESS PARK

The ongoing evacuation of offices in this area presents a significant challenge as to which new land uses would best benefit, and integrate with, the village. The Parish Council is working closely with Hart District Council to establish an appropriate new planning policy for this area.



ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY (E&C) COMMITTEE

The E&C Committee works tirelessly maintaining and improving the wellbeing of the community by providing a range of services and amenities that benefit the diverse nature of the village. They are ably supported by Sarah McMeeken, the E&C Administrative Officer. Sarah joined the team in January 2021, completing a 3-month handover from the retiring administrator, Marian Bright, and fully took over the role in April 2021. On behalf of the Councillors, she manages the Council's open spaces such as Bassetts Mead, numerous play areas including the skate park, grounds maintenance contracts, the cemetery and street furniture.

The current committee consists of 6 Councillors and meets on the third Wednesday of every month.

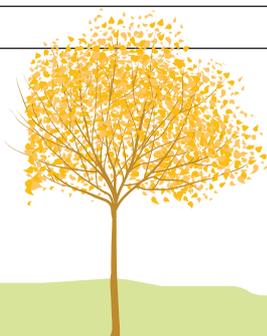


GRANTS

The Committee has awarded over £6,500 in grant funding to various organisations this year, as shown in the table below. Organisations from within Hook or working with Hook residents are encouraged to apply for

grants and our new application forms are available on the website. The Committee has a budget of £20,000 available for grant giving in 2022-23 and grant applications are considered throughout the year.

Organisation	Description	Amount
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£25
Royal British Legion	Lamppost Poppies	£225
Victim Support	Personal Safety Equipment	£200
Canine Assisted Learning	Hook Schools support	£3,625
Hook Village Halls	Half Term Event	£500
Elfest	Charity event	£500
Hook in Bloom	Village displays	£1,500
TOTAL		£6,575



BASSETTS MEAD

Managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Parish Council, substantial work has been undertaken to improve the flow of the River Whitewater and the stolen bench has been replaced. We have also agreed that the path alongside of the river will be widened to allow better access.



DOG WASTE BAGS

A record number of dog waste bags have been distributed throughout the village, 100,000 in total, in our continuing work to reduce this waste around the village. The bags are available from the Parish Council office and several distribution points around the village.

If you require dog waste bags, please call the office on 01256 768687 to find out where your nearest doorstep collection point is or pop into the office Mon – Fri 9am – 12 noon to collect a packet.



POPPIES, POPPIES & YET MORE POPPIES

Once again, we were able to extend the lamppost poppy display throughout the village and enabled Hook in Bloom to use our hanging basket supports to display their wonderful poppy drapes, produced by many villagers for all to see.

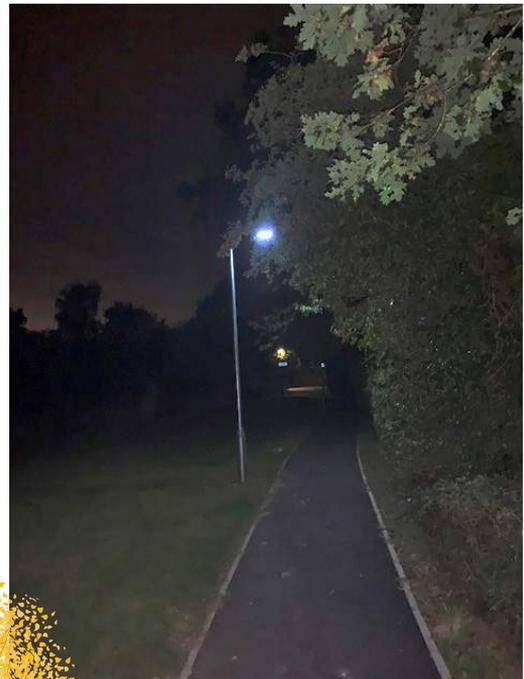


TREES

During the storms this year, we lost two large trees behind John Morgan Close, which confirmed our earlier decision to bring forward the usual five-year tree inspection was the right one. The report identified over seventy trees that needed attention or felling, with many requiring the work to be done within a six-month period. That work is progressing and in due course work will begin on replacing the lost trees.

NEW LIGHTING IN MITCHELLS FIELD

Solar powered lampposts have been installed along the path through Mitchells Field in response to concerned users of the route. As a result, further residents have requested the lights be extended into their area.



NORTH EAST HOOK COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMITTEE (NEHCPC)

The North East Hook Community Project Committee (NEHCPC) was formed in late 2021 and superseded the Sports Working Group which featured in last years' annual report.

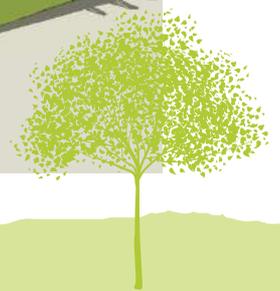
The primary objective of the NEHCPC is to provide appropriate oversight to the delivery of a pavilion and a shed facility over the next 15-18 months. Funding for these facilities will be provided from S106 developer contributions, together with a sum from Hook residents by way of a precept over a period of years.

The site for this exciting project sits adjacent to the on-going Croudace (Green Hart Park) development in NE Hook along the A30. A completed project would see a rugby club venue (the first of its kind anywhere in Hart District) with 2 pitches, together with a Shed facility which aspires to promote social inclusion for the public benefit of men and women living in and around Hook, to combat loneliness and social isolation arising as a result of their

age, infirmity, disability, financial hardship or social circumstance.

The Parish Council has appointed an architect who is presently (at the time of writing) developing options for the buildings and car parking areas together with costings which will be formally presented for the Council's consideration.

Should the Council decide to continue with the project, a full planning submission will likely be made to the Planning Authority in the summer of 2022 having followed the usual process, including consultation with Hook residents. A successful planning submission will see the construction phase starting in late 2022 with its completion, hopefully, before summer 2023. Hook Parish Council believes that this venture will see a very attractive and widely supported sports and social inclusion focal point in our community, which builds upon making Hook a better place in which to live.



FINANCE, STRATEGY & RESOURCES (FSR) COMMITTEE

The Finance, Strategy & Resources (FSR) committee currently consists of eight councillors and meets on the third Monday of the month. Its functions include the consideration of new policies, developing strategy, monitoring of actions in support of the Corporate Plan, oversight of the Council's budgets, accounts, investments and internal controls, along with the HR functions of the Council. This year the FSR Committee has undertaken a

full review of the Hook Parish Council Corporate Plan. The plan highlights the Council's vision and priorities for the period 2021-2024, together with the key objectives that need to be delivered in order to achieve them over the plan period. The updated plan can be found on our website <https://bit.ly/3JmKDvU>

WORKING GROUPS

SPORTS WORKING GROUP (SWG)

Council approved the establishment of the SWG to develop a proposal for the construction of a sports facility on land provided under a S106 Agreement adjacent to the Park Health Club off London Road. Now the groundwork is complete, the land is being transferred to the Parish Council and progress on the development of designs for a sports pavilion has begun. This working group has now become the formal NE Hook Community Project Committee.

COMMUNITY SAFETY WORKING GROUP (CSWG)

The CSWG was established in September 2020 following a spate of criminal activities and antisocial behaviour. A survey was carried out in November 2020 and the results were collated and analysed and the working group are now awaiting potential proposals.



MONEY MATTERS

The Council's finances are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Responsible Financial Officer and are audited twice yearly by a Council appointed internal auditor who assesses the Council's compliance with relevant legislation. A further audit is carried out annually by an external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.

The Parish Council primarily receives income through the Precept; an annual sum of money collected with the Council Tax by Hart District Council. In addition, income is received from cemetery fees, interest on funds held in investment accounts, Hook Live events and hire of pitches, and in some years, although not this one, developer contributions. Details of the income and expenditure for 2021-22 are shown below.

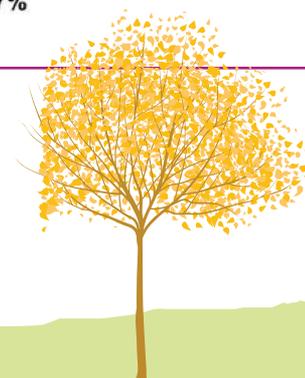
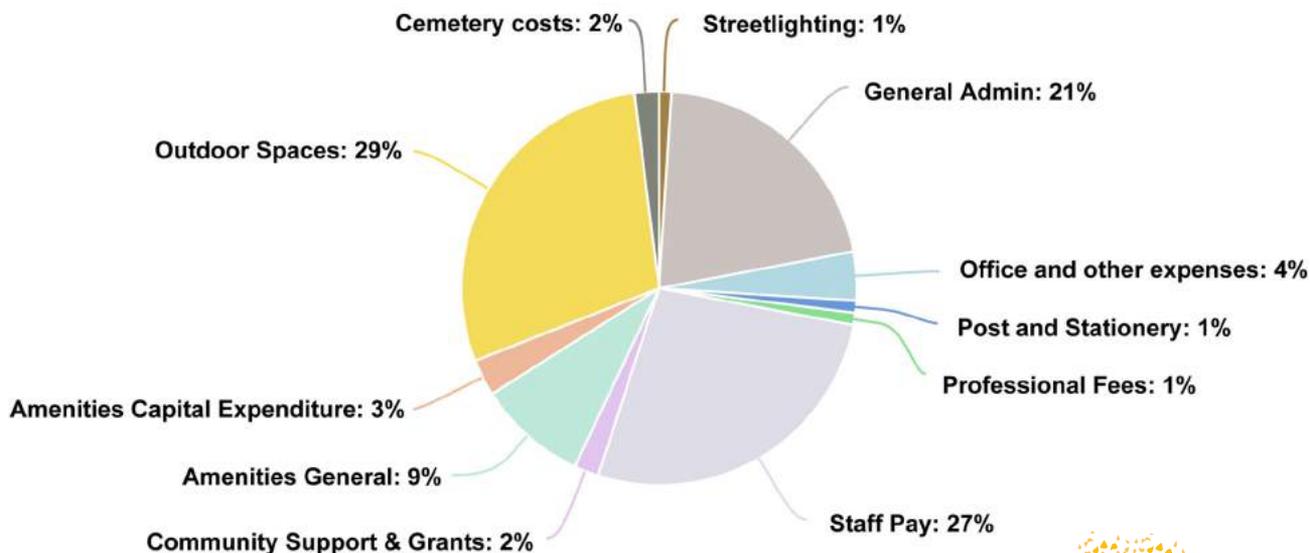
The budget and precept proposals for 2022-23 were debated, finalised and approved at the Council meeting in January 2022. The precept for 2022/23 was set at £490,000 which equates to £125.02 pa for a Band D property, an increase of £0.07 per week on 2021-22. This accounts for all the costs incurred in running the Council's services and assets, as well as funding new initiatives being planned for the coming year.

The year ends under budget with most areas of expenditure as expected and other than tree maintenance, overspends within budget categories are minimal. Due to Covid-19 restrictions during the year, several planned initiatives have been further delayed and funds allocated for these will be carried forward into the next financial year. For activities and services which only occur every few years such as elections, play area replacement, tree health checks and buildings surveys, a smaller amount is budgeted annually to spread the cost.

Hook Parish Council's finances are managed in an open and transparent manner. Annual accounts, financial policies and statutory returns can be found on the Council website www.hook.gov.uk/finance.

Income 2021-22	
Bank Interest	£4,959
Precept	£450,000
Hook Live	£3,900
Cemetery income	£5,024
Hire Charges Income	£1,880
Grant Income	£3,763
TOTAL INCOME	£469,526

Expenditure 2021-22



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The popularity of our app (available on Android and iOS) continues to grow, as do the followers on our Facebook page. Anything we post on our Facebook page is also posted on the news sections of our website and app. We also continue to provide a monthly update on our page (page 5) within the village magazine "Hook Focus" and update our notice boards on a weekly basis. To download our app, go to the App Store for your phone's platform and search for "Hook Parish Council" or scan the QR code below.



ECHO HOTEL MUSIC CLUB (EHMC)

Hook Parish Council sponsored and supported the establishment of the Echo Hotel Music Club as a not-for-profit live music venue, based at the Elizabeth Hall, in 2019. The aim was to present the best bands and artists on the UK live music circuit, many of them selling 1000s of albums a year, for the benefit of music-loving Hook residents, who would otherwise have the expense of travelling some distance to attend a decent gig. In addition, the club was also set up to ensure a friendly, safe 'vibe' in which to enjoy the music, an affordable bar and professional sound and lighting to complete the experience.

The club formally opened its doors in February 2019 and, by the time the Covid Pandemic had struck in March 2020, it had hosted 12 gigs. All the gigs had been popular and extremely well attended, with over half being completely sold out! The club's reputation had started to spread beyond Hook and its environs and we had regular visitors from 'far flung' places such as South Wales, Kent, Cambridge and Southampton. The club was also popular with the band community: two bands did 'Album Launches' at the club. A further two recorded their performances for their future live album releases and another filmed and livestreamed the gig to their UK and Europe fanbase!

Three gigs were planned for autumn 2021. Sadly, Covid related issues caused the cancellation of two of them. However, the last remaining gig for 2021, Wille and the Bandits (see picture above) supported by Club favourites, Brave Rival, was a roaring success. It was great to see many friendly local (and not-so-local) faces again. An emotional night all round. The gig also benefitted from being livestreamed using new, more powerful equipment installed during the various lockdown periods.

Live music returned to Hook on 12 March with a 'Rock Follies Ladies' Night'. EHMC pulled off a bit of a coup for



this one: three brilliant female vocalists backed by a band consisting of world class session musicians with mind-boggling CVs: Jade like the Stone, Hollie Rogers and Georgia Van Etten backed by the Redtenbacher's Funkestra Band. The band itself comprised some of the most heavily CV'd musicians around (think Elton John, David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Amy Winehouse, Joss Stone, etc). A special night with awesome talent on show!

At time of writing, more gigs are being planned for 2022 including the return of Brave Rival on 11 June (tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/hooklive/t-kvdpok)

Regular updates about what's on can be found on EHMC's Facebook page <https://bit.ly/3KPZEeq>, Facebook club group <https://bit.ly/3u4q1IU> and website www.echohotelmusicclub.co.uk. Please sign up to the newsletter from any of these links. EHMC also regularly promote our activities in Hook Focus.



HOOK PARISH COUNCIL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

SERVICES

- Cemetery
- Street furniture
- Footpaths
- Playgrounds and open spaces
- Grants
- Planning
- Community buildings
- Hook app/Facebook/website
- Free dog waste bags
- Defibrillators - Community Centre and Grand Parade

ACTIVITIES

- Echo Hotel Music Club events
- Hook Village Show (in conjunction with Hook and Odiham Lions)
- Annual Village Meeting

SUPPORTING OTHERS

- Hook in Bloom
- Hook & Odiham Lions

2022 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings of the Council and Committees are open to the public. In 2021-22 hybrid meetings have been held – with some Councillors attending in person and others attending virtually. Each agenda includes a period when the public may address the Council. For more information go to hook.gov.uk/about-hook-parish-council/council-meetings/agendas/

2022	COUNCIL	P&I Committee		E&C Committee	FSR Committee	ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
		1	2			
JANUARY	12	19		26	17	
FEBRUARY	2	9	23	16	21	
MARCH	2	9	23	16	21	
APRIL	6	13	27	20	25	
MAY	4	11	25	18	16	11
JUNE	1	8	22	15	20	
JULY	6	13	27	20	18	
AUGUST	3	10	24	17	-	
SEPTEMBER	7	14	28	21	19	
OCTOBER	5	12	26	19	17	
NOVEMBER	2	9	23	16	21	
DECEMBER	7	14	TBC	21	-	

This year a new committee has been formed - the NE Hook Community Project Committee. This committee will meet on a regular basis with meeting dates, times and venue on the agenda which will be published in the week before the meeting takes place.



PARISH COUNCIL PERSONNEL: 2021-22

Executive Officer	Anne Atkins Retired September 2021	Parish Council Office Hook Community Centre Ravenscroft Hook RG27 9NN Opening hours: 9am - noon Monday - Friday	01256 768 687 or 01256 768 573
Clerk to the Council (Replaces Executive Officer)	Sarah Dignan From 19th July 2021 Ext 201		
Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)	Serena Dolby Ext 203		
Administrative Officer (Environment & Community)	Sarah McMeeken Ext 202		
Administrative Officer (Planning)	Annalie Hadfield Ext 204		
Administrative Officer (Community Engagement)	Pam Mercer Ext 205		
Chairman of Council	Verd Nabbs	48 Oak Tree Drive	01256 761988
Vice-Chairman of Council & Chairman of FSR Committee & NE Hook Community Project Committee	Rob Cowell	2 Rookwood Close	07707 532787
Chairman of Environment & Community Committee	Liz Tomlinson	Silver How, London Road	01256 212462
Chairman of Planning & Infrastructure Committee	John Orchard	15 Painters Pightle	01256 767521
Members	Jeff Burke	21 Hawthorn Rise	01256 766223
	Paul Kinge	11 Butts Meadow	01256 764611
	Fergus Kirkham	1 Alderwood Drive	01256 766122
	Les Morrison	29 Mead Hatchgate	01256 762817
	Barry Myall	23 Lynwood Gardens	01256 764640
	Jacqui Nabbs	48 Oak Tree Drive	01256 761988
	Chris Terrey	3 Stable Close	01256 964597
	Jane Worlock	Emrys House, 17 Driftway Road	07887 502384

