

Next full Parish Council meeting on Thursday, 20 January

We are still in the midst of high omicron infection rates, rising death rates and “work from home” still in place. The issue is how the Parish Council can proceed with its work in the current circumstances, given:

- that it needs to act responsibly to safe-guard people’s health
- that zoom meetings are not permitted by government
- that HDC needs a copy of our budget figures by the end of January

From listening to various councillors, we have learned that some of you have concerns about face-to-face meetings because of underlying health issues or those of close family members. Other councillors feel very relaxed about face-to face meetings. We are aware that councillors’ own personal circumstances vary greatly and so this diversity of views is very understandable.

We have decided to try and accommodate councillors’ diverse views as best as we can, in the following ways:

- To curtail the agenda only to those matters that are urgent/crucial so that the meeting is brief
- To hold a face-to-face meeting in Copsale Hall because ventilation is so much better than at Mannings Heath village hall, hence the change of date
- To ask all councillors and residents to wear a face mask throughout the meeting, even when speaking
- To ask all councillors and residents only to attend the meeting if they are free of any symptoms (including of a “cold”) and to have a negative lateral flow test result obtained on the day of the meeting
- To keep all windows and doors open at Copsale Hall even though it will be a cold meeting. This is another reason to keep the meeting brief.
- **To ask all councillors to email the Clerk on the day of the meeting to confirm attendance so we can be sure of a quorum** (four councillors, otherwise decisions cannot be made)

Matters not on the agenda such as planning will be decided electronically. We very much hope that after this infection peak in January, rates will fall and we can relax our measures in the near future.