



TO: All Members of Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

The Council will meet on Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.30pm (Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start for public questions and comments).

Venue: **Robertsbridge Village Hall**, Station Road, Robertsbridge.

You are summoned to attend (Local Government Act 1972, Sch. 12, para.10(2)(b)).

Agenda

- 122. To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence.**
- 123. Declarations of interest** – to receive Members' declarations of interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
- 124. Applications for dispensation** - to consider written requests from Members for dispensation and to consider the length of time the dispensation should be granted for i.e., as a one-off relating to a matter on this agenda, or ongoing for a set period and relating to any agenda within that period.
- 125. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22nd January 2024** – to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
- 126. Matters arising from previous minutes: - for information only:**
 - a) Ash trees in Station Road Car Park (76c)** – a contractor has been appointed to carry out the approved works (fell one tree, tidy the other). The works will be completed as soon as possible, subject to a Tree Notice to RDC, which has been submitted.
 - b) Christmas lights** (Clerks' Report 109) –still to be removed from tree in Station Road.
 - c) Clock Winding by Darvell (112)** – Donation made to St Michael's Hospice.
 - d) Playgrounds Operational Inspection and proposed works (115b)** – following the inspection in December, the AWG approved works to be completed (when conditions allow).
 - e) Pipers Field Willow Trees (115d)** – Gray-Nicoll to fell as soon as weather permits.
 - f) Youth Provision / Youth Centre (118)** – a meeting is being arranged.

127. County Councillor Report – brief report from Cllr Paul Redstone on any current matters (written report for March circulated to Members by email 12/3/24) (published).

128. District Councillor Report - brief report on any current matters (if representative present).

129. Clerks' Report – to receive and note (published), and to discuss the following specific items:

- a) Boards and banners on the bank of the High pavement in the High Street.
- b) NALC Briefing on Council Email addresses.
- c) D-Day 80 – to discuss under Agenda item 136b below.

130. Village Steward – to receive and note the list of tasks completed and consider any future tasks (published).

131. Accounts and Financial Matters

a) **Receipts and Payments lists** – to receive/approve receipts and payments for January and February 2024 (published).

b) **Request for Donation / Grant** – to consider requests from the following:

- i) **Community Rail Line** – request for a donation towards the Friary Gardeners flower planting project at the station. £200 was given 22/23 which covered the main planters; a little more would also cover the hanging baskets (published).
- ii) **Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance** – request for a donation of £350 (published). (£300 given 22/23.)

c) **Finance Working Group** – to receive updates on / consider the following matters:

- i) **Approved CCLA investment** – update on current cashflow position and to consider the recommendation of the FWG not to go ahead with the investment with CCLA previously approved (18/9/23; 70bii).
- ii) **Cambridge & Counties funds** – to reduce the intended withdrawal of funds from the 95-day notice account on 26th March from £30k to £10k, leaving sufficient capacity in the account to allow credit of interest but remain below the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) safety net of £85k. The FWG will resume the search for a further high interest account with another banking institution that is covered by the FSCS (CCLA is not).
- iii) **Discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)** – the LGPS requires all employers to have a published policy on mandatory discretions (all of which could involve a cost to the council). The FWG will investigate and draft a policy for approval by full council, but in the meantime, to consider their recommendation to approve an interim statement under each discretion as follows: *'Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council will not have a general policy of exercising this discretion, but may do so where a sound business case can be made, and will consider requests on a case-by-case basis.'*

- 132. Change Management Working Group / Business Plan** – Cllrs O’Hara and Todd to report on progress on the Key Objectives to date and consider next steps, including whether a further workshop is required. To discuss / consider comments on the first draft Communications Strategy (circulated to Members by email 15/3/24).
- 133. Invitation from Huw Merriman MP** - to consider an invitation (published) to attend a Rural Parish Conference at Great Dixter on Friday 19th April 10am to 12.30pm, and to be involved in ‘Meet your MP’ rural visit in the parish.
- 134. Station Road Car Park**
- a) **Progress of Legal Order** – to consider appointment of a consultant / outside agent to progress the legal order (publicity / consultation etc.).
 - b) **CCTV** – draft specification in progress; to consider delegating to the Amenities Working Group finalisation / approval of the specification, and to seek quotes thereon. The AWG, in consultation with the FWG, to subsequently make recommendations on acceptance of a scheme to full council for approval.
 - c) **Daily Servicing Contract** – to consider delegating to the Clerk in consultation with the Finance Working Group, approval of a three-month trial contract from April.
- 135. Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly)** – update on progress for the event on 15/4/24.
- 136. Summer Event / D-Day 80**
- a) **Summer Event Saturday 22nd June 2024** - to receive an update from Cllrs Bishop and Dulley on progress with the Bonfire Society on planning the event.
 - b) **D-Day 80 Thursday 6th June 2024** - to consider proposals from Hurst Green Parish Council to join with them for their events: a tractor run in the daytime and lighting the beacon at the Stage in the evening. And to consider whether any funds should be allocated towards this (see Clerks’ Report).
- 137. Adopting the railway Station** - South Eastern Community Rail Partnership scheme – to consider a report / case study by Cllr Palamarczuk (published) and whether to adopt Robertsbridge Station.
- 138. Traditional wooden fingerpost (directions sign)** – the fingerpost on the bank of the High Pavement needs refurbishment. East Sussex Highways offers matched funds for fingerposts. Quotes have been requested from two companies. To consider delegation of approval of works/quote to the Amenities Working Group. (We have funds allocated in the budget for fingerpost refurbs.)

139. Planning Matters - to receive and note the minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 5/4/24 and 4/3/24 (previously issued).

140. Reports / updates from Representatives

- a) **Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)** – RALC has appointed a new Secretary, Alice Nolan. This will now be mainly admin, as the accounting/financial responsibilities no longer sit with the Clerk (presumably with the Treasurer). The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th April.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Ripley'.

Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council