



TO: All Members of Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

The Council will meet on Monday 20th November 2023 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)).

The meeting will begin with a short verbal address by Sarah Jacques, Sussex Outreach Support / RVA, about proposed outreach advice centres at Etchingham, Battle and Robertsbridge railway stations.

Agenda

- 80. To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence.**
- 81. Declarations of interest** – to receive Members' declarations of interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
- 82. 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.
- 83. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th September 2023** – to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
- 84. Matters arising from previous minutes: - for information only:**
 - a) Lighting upgrades (21)** – installation of the new column 4 with Windsor lantern (beside the Parish Office) was scheduled for October half term but was postponed again to 18 December. The new Windsor lantern on column 6 opposite Belle Flowers in the High Street is still awaiting delivery from the manufacturer.
 - b) Bishops Lane drain investigation (Bishops Meadow ditch) (24)** – in progress.
 - c) Annual Guy Fawkes Celebrations (71) – post event road sweeping** – contractor booked by PC (via RDC), PC to pay; total price £366.42 + vat.
 - d) Legal Matters (72)** – no update due to other priorities.

85. **Cllr Paul Redstone, ESCC** – brief report on any current matters (written report for November circulated to Members by email 31/10/23 (published).
86. **Cllr Sue Prochak, RDC** – brief report on any current matters.
87. **Clerks' Report** – to receive and note (published).
88. **Village Steward** – to receive and note the list of tasks completed and consider any future tasks (published).
89. **Accounts and Financial Matters**
- a) **Receipts and Payments lists** – to receive/approve receipts and payments for September and October (published).
 - b) **Finance Working Group** – to receive / note the Notes of Meeting 5/10/23 (published).
 - c) **Request for Donation / Grant** – to consider a request from Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) for a contribution towards their running costs (published).
 - d) **Power supply costs street lighting** – to report that the new lighting inventory has been submitted to UKPN and they have issued a new Unmetered Supply Certificate, effective from May 2023. This confirms the power consumption of our streetlights and UKPN will submit it to our energy supplier, who will review our charges accordingly (they will reduce significantly due to the change to LED / reduced consumption).
90. **Change Management Working Group** – to receive and note the Business Plan and Organisational Change Report, including the draft Strategic Plan and Working Groups document (published), and to confirm arrangements for the Business Plan Workshop on 13th January 2024.
91. **Amenities Working Group (AWG)**
- a) **Clerk's Amenities Projects / Task List** – to receive and note the report (published).
 - b) **Yearly inspection schedule/contract for playgrounds** – to consider signing up for operational inspections with Safeplay Playgrounds. This includes three full health and safety checks during the year on every item within the play areas, to ensure compliance with BS EN1176, with online access to the full reports. They will also provide a no obligation free quote for any remedial actions identified. All inspectors are RPII Approved and DBS checked. We would still also have one independent annual inspection as we do now, and the three operational inspections would be timed so that we have an inspection quarterly. The cost is £75 per site (Recreation Ground and Bishops Meadow) per inspection, so a total of £450 per annum.
 - c) **Pavilion / toilets** – to consider the condition of the building and the requirement for refurbishment and repairs. The balance of the current year budget allocation stands

at £1,299. The precept amount for the current year was £700 (with £800 brought forward). To consider what allocation should be made in the 24/25 budget.

92. Traffic / Roads/ Highways matters

- a) **Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Meeting** - to report on the meeting held 5th October 2023 (minutes circulated to Members 16/11/23), including an update on comments/items from the Parking Review, and to consider suggestions for the 2025 Parking Review.
- b) **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** – update on the new (solar powered) sign and schedule for the next six months.
- c) **Urban Grass Cutting (verges) 2024** – to consider the options from ESCC, which are:
Option 1 - standard two cuts (free)
Option 2 - extra four cuts (total six) for £1,337
Option 3 - self delivery, whereby the PC appoints its own contractor to carry out a minimum of two urban cuts per year. ESCC does not carry out any urban cutting in the parish but will contribute £669 to the PC for the year.
Note that it is only **urban** cutting that can be self-delivered – which is essentially the built-up areas of the village. Rural verge cutting cannot be self-delivered.

93. Coronation Lasting Commemoration (74) – update from Cllr Palamarczuk.

94. D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024 – to receive an update from Cllrs Bishop and Dulley.

95. Remembrance Day Parade – to ratify expenditure of £400 for the traffic management company to facilitate safe-crossing of the A21 for the 2023 parade. And to consider whether the Parish Council is prepared to fund this going forward (from 2024). Not doing so would mean that the Parade could not cross the A21 to the Church.

96. Annual Village Tidy Day – to confirm intention to hold on proposed date 3rd March 2024.

97. Memorial Bench request – to consider a request by a resident who wishes to pay for an additional bench in Pipers Field, in memory of her late husband.

98. Withdrawal of ESCC Youth provision from Robertsbridge – to report on notification (email received 24th October 2023) that there will no longer be any youth provision in Robertsbridge (the weekly Youth Club will no longer run).

99. Rother District Council Budget 2024 Consultation – Financial Challenges Ahead (Proposals include a reduction in services and facilities and an inflationary increase in some fees and charges). Invitation to respond by 17th December 2023. Further information:
<https://www.rother.gov.uk/consultations/2024-25-budget-consultation-financial-challenges-ahead/>

100. Planning Matters:

- a) **Planning Committee Meetings** – to receive and note the minutes of the meetings held on 24/7/23, 4/9/23 and 2/10/23 (previously issued).

101. Reports / updates from Representatives

- a) **Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)** – minutes of 12 October 2023 will be circulated when available.
- b) **Southeastern Stakeholder Forum** – to receive and note the report by Cllr Palamarczuk (published).



Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council