



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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TO: All Members of Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

The Council will meet on Monday 20 March 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 be preceded by a short talk by a representative of the Divest East Sussex campaign - see Agenda item 114.

And a brief outline of the Coronation event on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 6th May – see Agenda item 115 regarding PC contribution and Commemorations.

Agenda

- 109. To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence.**
- 110. Declarations of interest** – to receive Members' declarations of interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
- 111. 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.
- 112. Minutes of Council meetings held on 30 January 2023** – to consider and approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
- 113. Matters arising from previous minutes** (items not on this Agenda – for update/info only)
 - a. Play Equipment repairs / upgrades (22/23-66)** – in progress – see Agenda item xxx below.
 - b. Legal Matters (78g; 58a)** – matters relating to registration of the lease for the Station Road car park and toilets, making the legal order, and ownership of land adjacent to the War Memorial – no further progress – Clerk to investigate position.
 - c. Precept 23/24** – details submitted to RDC 31 January 2023.
 - d. Village Clean Up Day held 26 February 2023 (103c)** – see Clerks' Report.

e. **Annual Parish Meeting 6 March 2023 (105)** – see Clerks’ Report.

114. Divest East Sussex Campaign – following the earlier address, to consider their proposed motion (published) for the PC to request ESCC / East Sussex Pension Fund to publicly commit to fully divesting from fossil fuels.

115. Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

a. **Party in the Park Saturday 6th May 2-6** – following the update from Ria at the start of the meeting, to consider a contribution towards the costs of the event.

b. **Commemorative gifts for children** - to consider purchase of Coronation Coins for children at Salehurst Primary School and Seed packets for children at Robertsbridge Children’s Services (nursery), at a total cost of approximately £1,250.

c. **Lasting Commemoration** – to consider whether any other form of commemoration is required – area, seating, tree planting etc.

116. Council Organisational Review Visioning Day – to consider the report by David Carden on the Visioning Day on 4 March (emailed to Members) and to agree next steps, with particular reference to the recommendations in the report at paragraph 7.1.

117. Village Steward – to update on progress with advertising the post.

118. Lighting upgrades / Borrowing Approval – to consider additional expenditure of £1,796 in relation to Sunday working by UKPN, to carry out the replacement of column 14 on Northbridge Street. (Traffic management required but ESH would not grant a permit for a weekday due to disruption for buses). See Clerks’ Report for update on progress with the project.

119. Accounts and Financial Matters

a. **Receipts and Payments lists** – to receive/approve lists for November and December 2022 (published).

b. **Finance Working Group (FWG)** – to receive and note the Notes of Meeting 15/3/23 (published) and consider recommendations covered below (see items 119 i to iv)

i. **Further (third) Banking Institution** – to consider the recommendation of the FWG to deposit £25,000 in a Public Sector Deposit Fund with CCLA Investments, whilst the search for further institution covered by the FSCS continues.

ii. **Budget Monitoring 22/23** – to consider the recommendation of the FWG to delegate approval of any year-end surplus virements to the FWG, including a new allocation for a fund for signs/fingerposts repairs, refurbishment and / or replacements (see agenda item 124c below).

iii. **Year-end process 23/24** – to receive/note the timetable for completion / approval/ submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Internal and External Audit.

iv. **Explanation of Precept Increase** – to consider / approve publication of a short paper explaining the increase for 23/24, in order to answer questions from the public.

c. **Request for Donation/Grant** – to consider requests from:

- i. **Air Ambulance Charity Kent, Surrey, Sussex (KSS)** - to consider a request for a donation of £300 towards their running costs (published).
- ii. **South East Communities Rail Partnership** – to reconsider a request for £200 towards floral displays at Robertsbridge Station, to be organised by Ross from the ticket office, with supply and help planting by the Friary Gardeners charity (published), following reassurance that any proposed changes to the ticket office or Ross's position will not be effected in time to impact the planting/flowering season this year.
- iii. **Helping Hands - Cost of Living Crisis** – to receive an update from Cllr Branford and consider a further allocation from the funds earmarked for Cost of Living projects (balance £400).
- iv. **Easter Lunch for Ukrainian Guests** – to consider a request to support provision of an Easter lunch for all the local Ukrainian guests, in the Village Hall. Natalia, who is working with the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, runs a youth session for young Ukrainians in the Village Hall. Helping Hands has donated £50.

120. South East Water (SEW) Community Fund (82b) – following our application for £30,000 towards playgrounds, we have been notified – and paid – a grant of £19,370.20. This will be added to the Earmarked Reserves for Playground upgrades / replacements, to be progressed as soon as possible.

121. Clerks' Report – to receive and note the report of the Clerks (published).

122. Dog Control Orders – Rother District Council's Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Control expires in January 2024 and they are consulting on any changes required to the current Order – which specifically includes our Recreation Ground regarding dogs on leads. To consider whether to propose any amendments (published).

123. Queen's Green Canopy – to report on the planting of the tree in the Pocket Park and to consider expenditure to provide a commemorative plaque, plus a bench in the same area.

124. Traffic / Road / Highways matters

- a. **Blenheim Court / George Hill safety issues** – update from Cllr Todd.
- b. **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** – update from Cllr Todd on progress and implementation.
- c. **Signage Project** – to receive the report by Cllr Todd and to consider the recommendations outlined (published).

- d. **SLR Meeting 23 March** – agenda items will include condition of Station Road and High Street.
- e. **20s Plenty Campaign** – to receive and note the document from Cllrs Todd and Palamarczuk (published) and consider the specific motion shown on page 1 of the document.

125. Request for Memorial Bench – the family of Ella and Charles wood have asked to have a bench in the village in their memory. To advise on investigations on potential locations and consider resulting proposal to site on the land near the bus shelter at Northbridge Street, and the family's preferred bench (to be paid for by the family but taken on by the Council).

126. Request for a Defibrillator in the Oakland Drive / Hackwood area of Brightling Road – purchase to be funded by a resident, to be added to the PC's list of Public Access Defibrillators (maintained by PC).

127. Planning Committee Meetings - to receive and note Minutes of Meetings held 9/2/23 and 13/3/23 (previously published/circulated).

128. LGA Debate not Hate Campaign – the Local Government Association has launched a Debate not Hate campaign which aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the responses and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation. RDC moved a Motion supporting the campaign (details emailed to Members 9/3/23 - published). To consider whether the PC wishes to support the campaign. Further detail can be found here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/debate-not-hate>



Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council
15/3/23