



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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TO: All Members of Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

The Council will meet on Monday 20 May 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)).

Before the meeting starts, there will be a 10-minute presentation by Rother District Council Planning Policy Officer, on the new Local Plan, which is currently out for consultation, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

This will be followed by the usual time (up to 15 minutes) for the public to ask questions or make comments on matters on the agenda.

Items 1 - 11 on the agenda will constitute the Annual Meeting.

Agenda

1. **To elect a Chairman of the Council** and receive his / her Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman
2. **To elect a Vice Chairman** and to receive his / her declaration of acceptance of office of Vice Chairman
3. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**
4. **Casual Vacancy due to the resignation of Dawn Hill** – to consider one application from Simon Longhurst (published). If co-opted to the Council, the appointment will be immediate, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed, and Simon will be invited to join the table, to participate in the remainder of the meeting as a full Member.
5. **Declarations of interest** – to receive Members' declarations of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
6. **Applications for dispensation** - to consider written requests from Members for dispensation and to consider the length of time the dispensation be granted 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.
7. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 March 2024** – to consider and approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting. (Matters arising from the Minutes will be taken at item 12.)
8. **Appointment of Representatives to outside bodies** (table published)

9. **Appointment of Committees, Working Groups and Lead Councillors** (table published)
10. **To approve Memberships and Annual Fees to Outside bodies** (list published)
11. **To consider and confirm dates of Council Meetings 2024/2025** (list published)

***** **End of Annual Meeting** *****

Commencement of normal business

12. **Matters arising from previous minutes: - for information only:**
 - a. **Ash trees in Station Road car park (126a)** – works complete.
 - b. **Pipers Field Willow trees (126e)** – felling still to be carried out by Gray-Nicolls.
 - c. **Youth Provision / Youth Centre (126f)** – meeting will be in early June.
 - d. **Huw Merriman MP Rural Parish Conference (133a)** – Cllr Palamarczuk attended the conference on 19th April. His report was circulated to Members 24/4/24.
 - e. **Progress on Car Park Legal Order (134a)** – a contractor still to be found.
 - f. **CCTV at Station Road Car Park (134b)** – no further progress.
 - g. **Fingerposts (traditional wooden direction signs) (138)** – we are waiting for a quote for repairs to the broken finger of the fingerpost at junction of Brightling Road / Ludpit Lane. The plan is to do the works at the same time as the one on the High Street, to keep the costs down.
13. **East Sussex County Councillor Report** – brief report from Cllr Paul Redstone on any current matters (written reports for April and May previously circulated to Members) (published).
14. **Clerks' Report** – to receive and note the list of tasks completed (published).
15. **Village Steward Report** – to receive and note the list of tasks completed (published).
16. **Accounts and Financial Matters**
 - a. **Receipts and Payments lists** – to receive/approve receipts and payments for March and April 2024 (published).
 - b. **Audit and Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)** – the Clerk/RFO to confirm arrangements. To confirm that no Members have any connection to our External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn Plc, that would constitute a conflict-of-interests.
17. **Summer Event / D-Day 80**
 - a. **D-Day 80 Thursday 6th June** – to confirm Hurst Green events and invitation to join them for the Beacon Lighting event in the evening.

- b. **Summer Event Saturday 22nd June** – to receive an update from Cllrs Bishop and Dulley and Ria Paine, who is leading for RBS.

18. Organisational Change Working Group

- a. **Report from the Working Group** – to receive and note the report (circulated to Members 15/5/24).
- b. **Draft Environmental Policy** – to review the draft policy and raise comments or suggestions (published).

- 19. Huw Merriman MP – Meet Your MP event** – the event has been organised for Friday 24th May at Robertsbridge Village Hall, 12 noon to 1.30pm. It is a drop-in session for residents, and he has advertised that the Parish Council will also be present. To confirm attendance.

- 20. George Hill junction with A21 – National Highways proposals** – to consider how to consult with residents on the proposed changes to the junction, which would prevent all right-hand turns (meaning traffic could not turn right *onto* the A21 *from* George Hill to go south - or turn right *onto* George Hill *from* the A21 when heading south).

- 21. 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. More information can be seen here: [Station Adoption – guide for the local community](#)

22. Planning Matters:

- a. **Planning Committee Meetings** – to receive and note the minutes of the meeting held on 8/4/24 and 8/5/24 (previously published).
- b. **New Rother Local Plan 2020-2040 - Reg 18 Consultation** – the draft has recently been published; the consultation runs until 23 July 2024. To agree a process for formulating comments for submission to RDC. [New Rother Local Plan 2020-2040](#)

23. Reports / updates from Representatives

- a. **Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)** – minutes of the meeting held 10th April will be circulated once made available. The next meeting is on 10/7/24.



Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council