

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH MEETING

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for the PARISH of SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE was held at ROBERTSBRIDGE HALL, STATION ROAD, ROBERTSBRIDGE MONDAY 18th APRIL 2016 at 7.15 pm

Presiding: Cllr Nick Greenfield, Chairman of the Parish Council

Present: **Electors:** 71 **Press:** None

Elected Representatives:

Parish Council: Ruth Hardy; Ross McNay; Nick Greenfield; Stephen Hardy; Sean O'Hara; Anne Wells

Rother District Council: Cllr Sue Prochak

East Sussex County Council: Cllr Angharad Davies

Also in attendance: Karen Ripley, Parish Clerk; Angie Goodwin, Asst. Clerk; Representatives from Sussex Police & Neighbourhood Watch; Members of Hurst Green & District Community 1st Responders

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Browne, Rother District Council; Cllrs Nick Brown and Cherry Michell, Parish Council; Sheila Rogers, Robertsbridge Scout Group; Andrew McGregor, Salehurst C of E Primary School; Dale Wheeler, 1066 Cycle.

The following groups & organisations had tables or displays: Community 1st Responders, British Red Cross (Robertsbridge First Aid Group), Community Church, Community Association, Sussex Police & Neighbourhood Watch, Helping Hands, Arts Partnership, Guides & Brownies, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Rother Valley Railway.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the local organisations for their displays, and the W.I. for once again kindly organising the refreshments this evening.

- 1. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING 2nd MARCH 2015** – (available on the Parish Council website since April 2015) were approved and signed.
- 2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL NICK GREENFIELD** – copy attached.
- 3. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SUE PROCHAK** – copy attached. Cllr Prochak also covered points made in District Cllr Graham Browne's report (attached) as he was unable to attend.
- 4. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANGHARAD DAVIES** – attached. Cllr Davies also reported the following items not contained in the written report: Since 2010 ESCC has made savings of more than £78m, and needs to save £25.4m in 16/17. The Department for Communities and Local Government is devolving certain responsibilities to local authorities. Public health has already been transferred to ESCC and in future will have to be financed through business rates, as the Revenue Support Grant is being phased out by 2020. Improvements are being made to Adult Social Care; there is a new Health and Social Care initiative called East Sussex Better Together, which has one central telephone number (0300 678 0010) for anyone (the public, GPs, paramedics etc) to use for all community queries involving health and social care. New jobs will be created in enterprise zones including Newhaven by a new 0.5% levy on large employers' pay bills (pay bills > £3m), to fund apprenticeships. Free childcare for working parents is increasing to 30 hours per week. 72,044 potholes in East Sussex were fixed in 2015. The new contractor, Costain CH2M will be responsible for all aspects of Highways work from May; this should improve efficiency. Our current Highways Steward Jon Copp was thanked for his hard work.

5. QUESTIONS / LOCAL MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Village Gateways – a resident asked what was happening about the proposed ‘gates’ at the entry points to the village. Cllr Davies suggested applying for match funding. The PC is intending to purchase gateways, but hasn't done so yet due to workload and higher priorities.

White Stop Lines at the top of Station Rd – a resident pointed out that these have worn away, and asked when they will be repainted. ESCC's Highways dept. is aware, but such repairs are on a long 'list' they are working through, and we cannot say when this will be.

Parking Controls – a resident asked who deals with cases where inconsiderate or illegal parking causes obstruction. A PCSO replied that the Police will respond to genuine obstruction and safety incidents, but they have insufficient resources to deal with ‘routine’ parking issues such as on double yellow lines, timed parking areas etc.

There was a break for refreshments, an opportunity to view the information provided by the various clubs and groups, and to chat informally.

6. REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS / ORGANISATIONS - no written reports were received. Verbal reports were given by the following groups:

a. Guides, Brownies & Rainbows - they have been planting wildflower seeds near the Children's Services premises, and are having a sunflower competition. The membership is quite small - contact Jo Pennells for further information (see The Villager or the PC website for contact details).

b. Robertsbridge Scouts Association - their groups are: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers. They're currently well-subscribed. Leaflets available.

c. Women's Institute - they are having a jumble sale this Saturday at 10-12 noon (jumble at 9 am) to raise funds towards a dishwasher for the Community hall.

d. St. Mary's Church - a new vicar - Annette Hawkins - will be starting in mid July. Until then services continue with Christopher Channer. On 5th June at 12:30 a service will be held in the Hoads' grounds, to mark Rev. Channer's 50th anniversary of service.

e. Community 1st Responders (Hurst Green & District) - they are five volunteers (soon to be 6) who between them spend 40-50 hours per week on call to the Ambulance Service, to attend incidents to administer First Aid before an ambulance arrives. The public were reminded about the automated defibrillators in the parish – one outside the Vets on the High Street, and one on the exterior wall of the Halt in Salehurst; these are straightforward to use as audible instructions are given automatically.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ted Kemp the Chairman explained that Robertsbridge used to have high Neighbourhood Watch activity, but it has declined. This group is going into its 3rd year with a new committee, has a very close working relationship with the Police, and is keen to encourage new Coordinators, who would then enrol members in their own street. Contact: chairman@rothernhw.co.uk. Neighbourhood Watch offers advice on scams, cold callers, rogue builders & gardeners, and recommends dummy CCTV cameras. Email updates (or paper versions) are distributed to members. Police alerts are going over to Neighbourhood Alert in the next few weeks.

A Sussex Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) spoke briefly too, explaining that the current 18 PCSOs in Rother will be cut to 9 in July. Their priorities are threat, harm and risk. Nevertheless, it is very important that people still report all crime and antisocial behaviour; use 101 (or online) for non-emergencies.

Neighbourhood Watch is also offering a 'junior' course to Year 6 children (age 10-11): a NW representative has been going out to several Bexhill schools, giving talks and 'scenarios'; there are 5 after-school sessions, including a visit from a magistrate.

8. ROTHER RURAL TRUST

This was an initiative started in 1998 by David Amies, Chairman of Rother District Council at the time. He created a charitable Trust Fund, of which Stephen Hardy is currently secretary. Awards of typically up to about £500 can be made for deserving causes or individuals, and it's very simple to apply - email or write to Stephen.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Chairman of the Steering Group Cllr Stephen Hardy outlined the exciting last 16 months since work on the plan began. The parish has seized the opportunity to take responsibility and have a say in the additional housing (and all the infrastructure that comes with it) that the village must make provision for up to 2028. Residents' enthusiasm was demonstrated by the amazing 67% response to the questionnaire delivered to every household; Stephen has not found anywhere else in the UK with such a good response rate. The NP will set the blueprint for the development that the community wants, so long as it is deliverable! The public were encouraged to attend the monthly Steering Group meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month) if they wish. Paid consultant Donna Moles is helping draft the plan, ready for consultation and examination; it is hoped the process will be complete and the plan approved for adoption (by referendum of local residents) by the end of this year.

10. NOTICES – the Clerk gave the following notices:

- 24th April – Clean for the Queen (& BBQ)
- 5th May – Polling Day Police & Crime Commissioner Election
- 14th May – Church Spring Fair
- 16th June - Electoral Review consultation deadline
- 27th May – Bonfire Society Auction of Promises
- 10th June - WI Quiz
- 11th June – Village Bake-Off
- 12th June – Soap Box Derby
- 19th June – Summer Event – Royalty & Ragtime in Robertsbridge – in honour of the Queen’s 90th Birthday this year (born in 1926), the theme is combining Royalty with the essence of the 1920s Ragtime scene.
- 23rd June – EU Referendum
- 26th June – Bonfire Society Boot Sale at the Recreation Ground.
- 2nd July – Salehurst School Fete
- 31st July – Bonfire Society Boot Sale at the Recreation Ground.
- 19th - 21st August – Family Fun Fair (Showtime Amusements) at the Recreation Ground (arriving and setting up from Monday 15th – leaving Monday 22nd).
- 19th November – Robertsbridge Bonfire
- 2nd December – Xmas Capers

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

Chairman.....

Date.....