

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH MEETING

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for the PARISH of SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE was held at ROBERTSBRIDGE HALL, STATION ROAD, ROBERTSBRIDGE MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2015 at 7.15 pm

Presiding: Cllr Nick Greenfield, Chairman of the Parish Council

Apologies were received from Sheila Rogers, Robertsbridge Scout Group; Jean Woodgate, Archaeological Society; Roy Christmas, Aviation Society; PC Jayne Cleverley; Keith Marden, Parish Council

Present: **Electors:** 62 **Press:** None

Parish Councillors: Cllr Ruth Augarde; Cllr Neil Barden; Cllr Nick Greenfield; Cllr Nigel Lockwood; Cllr Sean O'Hara; Cllr Anne Wells

Also in attendance: Karen Ripley, Parish Clerk; Angie Goodwin, Asst. Clerk; Cllr Sue Prochak, Rother District Council; Cllr Graham Browne, Rother District Council; Cllr Angharad Davies, East Sussex County Council

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 28TH APRIL 2014** - 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.
- 4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GRAHAM BROWNE** - verbal.
- 5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANGHARAD DAVIES** - attached.

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

a. Verbal Report by Chairman of the Parochial Church Council, Barry Longmuir - St. Mary's Church in Salehurst is facing a very difficult challenge if it is to have a future. Since vicar Jack Lusted left, retired priest Christopher Channer has been standing in temporarily (until Easter only), but the Diocese are not even looking for a replacement due to a serious shortfall in funding for another permanent vicar. Donations from churchgoers currently make up just under half that required, so St. Mary's are appealing to their congregation and the wider community to help them 'grow' and for ideas to increase funds.

b. Verbal Report by Roger Palamarczuk of the Bonfire Society - 2014 was the 2nd year the procession has taken the new route that excludes Northbridge Street, but re-visits Station Rd. This involves more marshalls, and a good PA system. The contingency plan was also employed in 2014, due to severely wet ground - this meant the public were excluded from the field and only the Societies permitted inside, and the bonfire was smaller. The effigy

(Putin in 2014) is on a wicker and papier-mâché base, not chicken wire now, so leaves little debris. Happily there were no significant injuries, so a 'no-claims' bonus is starting to build up (the premium is £4000 for the event).

c. Written Reports - were provided by Amenities Working Group; Robertsbridge Arts Partnership (RAP); Bonfire Society; Robertsbridge Enterprise Group (REG); Rights of Way Volunteer Group (ESCC).

7. PARISH COUNCIL & DISTRICT ELECTIONS 7TH MAY 2015 - Cllr Nick Greenfield invited people to consider standing for election, and outlined the various committees and sub-groups. All 9 places will be up for re-election. If 9 or less people stand they will be 'elected unopposed' - if more than 9 nominations are received there will be a poll on 7th May.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Chairman of the Steering Group Stephen Hardy spoke enthusiastically about the Neighbourhood Plan now getting underway, and introduced the lead Steering Group members for the 6 main themes: Housing, Education & Training, Environment, Leisure, Infrastructure and Economy. The decision to do a Neighbourhood Plan was formalised by the Parish Council in January 2015, and is expected to take about 18 months. It will give the community greater influence on new development in the parish.

9. QUESTIONS / LOCAL MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Speed control - a resident asked whether something could be done about car speeds at the entry points to the village, for example an electronic sign. Cllr Greenfield advised that the Village Gateways under consideration would act as a traffic calming measure, and that there is now an active Speedwatch group in the village. Perhaps additional reminder signs could be attached to lamp-posts - this can be discussed at the next Strengthening Local Relationships meeting.

Pot-holes & drains - another resident asked County Councillor Angharad Davies when we could expect permanent effective repairs for the ongoing pot-hole problems, particularly in Station Rd. They keep reappearing after temporary repairs. Cllr Davies explained about the prioritisation of the list; we are on it (and we keep lobbying) but there are many road repairs with higher priority than ours. However, the new 'jet-patchers' used for the temporary repairs do at least seem to be producing better results. Residents were invited to report specific drain problems, but sometimes parked cars prevent access for them to be cleared.

Parking - concerns were raised about this. There is extensive commuter parking on the streets as the station car park is expensive. Some yellow lines are almost invisible now, and there is no parking enforcement. A parking review would cost around £20,000.

Notices - the Clerk gave the following notices:

20th March 2015

RAP - a show:

Magnificent Men

30th March - 9th April 2015 - nomination period for standing for council

24th April 2015 Old RAP - a show

7th May 2015 Polling Day - District; Parish; Parliament

8th May 2015 Young RAP - T Pan Orchestra

13th June 2015 Open Gardens; village & Salehurst

21st June 2015 Summer Event - Recreation Ground; Pirate themed picnic event

22nd August 2015 Open Gardens; Glenleigh Walk

21st November 2015 - Robertsbridge Bonfire

4th December 2015 Christmas Capers - High Street

Contacting a PCSO: numbers are available on Sussex Police's website (any can be contacted)

The meeting closed at 9:20pm

Chairman.....

Date.....